

END OF...
Sports
crisis
family
illusions

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
443,000

No 63,127

THE TIMES



THURSDAY JULY 7 1988

30p

Government to act after Butler-Sloss blames all agencies

A law to protect families

● The network of agencies responsible for the care and protection of children failed in Cleveland, leading to the crisis, says the Butler-Sloss report

● Schools will be expected to detail a member of staff to monitor children for suspected cases of child abuse which should be reported to the social services

● The Government yesterday promised that there will be new legislation replacing Place of Safety Orders with seven-day protection orders

● The unshakable convictions of the two doctors most concerned with the Cleveland crisis were largely responsible for unnecessary distress (Page 4)

By Jill Sherman and Robin Oakley

A radical shake-up of legal procedures to protect children and parents in the handling of child sexual abuse cases was announced by the Government yesterday to prevent a repetition of the Cleveland crisis.

Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Health, told an almost united House of Commons that the Government would now proceed with proposals to reform the law on child care and family services, which would include the replacement of Place of Safety Orders with seven-day emergency protection orders.

He also announced extra cash for training social workers and proposals to set up an Office of Child Protection,

which could be given powers to scrutinize local authority applications in care proceedings. A consultation paper on the proposal, one of the recommendations in the inquiry report from Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, will be issued by the Lord Chancellor later this month.

The inquiry report made wide-ranging criticisms of all

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the individuals and agencies widely involved in the crisis. Although it holds no single individual to blame, it attacks the doctors for being "over confident" in their diagnosis, the police for "retreating to an entrenched position" and social workers for failing to take action "appropriate to the seriousness of the situation."

Paediatricians Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, who diagnosed 121 cases of sex abuse in five months, Cleveland child abuse expert Mrs Sue Richardson, and police surgeon Dr Alistair Irvine all shared part of the blame for the crisis, the judge said.

Mr Newton indicated that he expected those involved to be held to account but stressed that it would be up to the authorities involved to take the necessary action. "The Government expect that action to be speedy, thorough and effective."

"The Home would wish me to express the deep regret of all of us to those who have suffered as a result. It is perhaps hard to imagine the shattering effect on those parents who were innocent and on the children," he said.

Mr Newton also signalled the Government's belief in the shortcomings of the controversial reflex anal dilatation technique used by Drs Higgs and Wyatt. He told MPs the report indicated that medical examination was only one aspect of assessment in child abuse cases and "the test of reflex anal dilatation should not on its own be taken as conclusive evidence of sexual abuse."

Other measures announced by Mr Newton included:

● A £10 million boost for social work training in the sexual abuse field, 70 per cent

of it funded by the Government, in 1989-90.

● Government acceptance of the report's recommendation that Special Assessment Teams should be created in every local authority to deal with child sexual abuse.

● Separate guidance, offered by the DHSS, the Department of Education and the Home Office to nurses, teachers and police on how to deal with suspected child sexual abuse.

● Monitoring by the Social Services Inspectorate of cases where different agencies failed to co-operate properly in child abuse cases.

Mr Newton said that while there must be proper action to protect children from sexual or other abuse, "this must be achieved in a way which does not trample on the rights of parents and inflict unnecessary distress on the very children we wish to be helped."

There were cries of assent on all sides when he sympathised with the "staggering effect" on parents who were innocent and on their children.

He emphasized that an overall failure to achieve essential communication and co-operation between police, health and social services.

He underlined the Government's support for the report's view on the need to listen carefully to what children had to say and for "parents to be kept informed, consulted and given reasonable access to their children unless it would be against the best interests of the child."

During nearly an hour's questioning following Mr Newton's statement, a non-partisan Commons showed concern at the need to establish a balance between the rights of access of parents who might have been unfairly accused and what several MPs called the paramount need to protect abused children.

Though conventional concerns concerning the Queen's Speech prevented Mr Newton promising that the new law on child care will come in the next session, Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Social Services, nodded emphatically when Mr Robin Cook, for Labour, said the public would not understand if legislation was not speeded



Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, the paediatricians at the centre of the Cleveland controversy, photographed at work yesterday. The Butler-Sloss report said they must share blame for the crisis.

through. Ministers are planning a Bill for the autumn.

Mr Stuart Bell, the MP at the centre of the crisis, said there would have been a repeat of the Pied Piper of Hamelin story if he had not spoken out. "We would have been in a situation where many hundreds of children would have been taken from their parents, not only in Cleveland but up and down the country as well," he said.

"The parents are fully vindicated by the report and the minister's statement."

"The judge agreed with me when I said there had been a fundamental attack on family life, and that there had been a lack of sensitivity on the part of the social services."

Child care agencies yesterday gave their full backing to the Butler-Sloss report and welcomed the Government's proposals.

The Children's Legal Centre said that the report should

stand as a "milestone in the development of children's rights."

The two doctors at the centre of the inquiry last night said that the Butler-Sloss report had exploded the myth that they had been involved in a conspiracy.

Speaking through her solicitor, Dr Marietta Higgs said it had now been finally estab-

lished that an allegation that events occurred because of a conspiracy between her and other agencies was "wholly without foundation."

Mr John Mitchell, representing Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, said: "The report destroys, I hope once and for all, the absurd allegations regarding conspiracy, assault and the wholesale and unwarranted examination of children, which have frequently been made against Dr Wyatt."

Once a teacher decides that there is suspicion of abuse, it should be reported to the local social services department. Teachers are warned: "It is not the responsibility of school staff to make enquiries of parents or guardians, and in some cases it could be counter-productive."

In drawing up policies, the local education authorities will have to ensure that they include an emergency procedure to give immediate protection to a child at risk.

Teachers to monitor child abuse cases

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Every school in Britain should appoint a senior teacher to be responsible for its policy in dealing with child abuse, said the Department of Education and Science in guidelines issued yesterday after the publication of the Cleveland Report.

In addition every local education authority should appoint a senior official to be responsible for co-ordinating the area policy.

In consultation with the local social services depart-

ment, the education authorities will be expected to draw up a document which sets out the procedures that must be followed, where abuse is suspected and to provide training for teachers, although the DES makes it plain that these new arrangements should not require more staff or extra cash.

It will be up to each education authority in discussion with the head teachers and governors to decide the precise details of the policies but all the arrangements will

be reviewed in a year's time.

The DES circular, which is being sent to every local education authority, state school, and teacher training college, says: "School staff are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, or unexplained changes in behaviour or performance which may indicate abuse."

But it warns: "These signs can do no more than give rise to suspicion - they are not in themselves proof that abuse has occurred."

WIN £114,000

Portfolio
PLUS NEW
Accumulator

● The £4,000 daily prize was won yesterday (see page 3). The Portfolio Accumulator fund stands at £114,000. Prices: page 31

'Fight' call by bishops

Eight bishops opposed to the ordination of women in the Church of England have appealed to their supporters among the clergy not to resign but to stay and fight.

The appeal came in a statement issued yesterday by the Bishops of London, Chichester, Exeter, Leicester, Portsmouth, Truro, Wakefield and Winchester.

Synod report, page 9

French sauce



Britain's favourite sauces - HP, Lea & Perrins and Daddies - have been sold for £199m to the French producers of Evian water and Lanson champagne. Page 24

Bar results

Results of the Trinity Term Bar examination will be published in *The Times* tomorrow. Copies may be bought at the main entrance to Victoria Station after 10pm tonight.

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Shares in Rover halted over talk of BAe deal

By Cliff Feltham

Shares in Rover, the car group, were suspended yesterday on speculation that details are soon to be announced of its sale to British Aerospace, the aircraft maker.

They had unexpectedly risen 14p to 74p before Rover stepped in to halt dealing. A spokesman said it had acted in the interests of the prosecution of an orderly market in the shares.

The company said it was possible that the delicate state of negotiations had provoked "unfounded" speculation.

The deal hinges on the European Commission's move to limit the debt write-off which the Government is planning to make in Rover.

If the Commission refuses to allow the £800 million intended, it could force British Aerospace to reconsider the terms of the offer.

Last night, the Department of Trade and Industry dismissed speculation of an early

announcement of the Rover takeover.

"We are not about to make an announcement about our discussions with the Commission. We have said we are in the middle of negotiations with the European Commission and we have said we hope the deal will be through by the end of this month."

● EEC officials denied the Brussels Commission had taken any further decision that could affect trading in Rover shares since Lord Young's visit to the European Commission on Tuesday.

A spokesman said: "Our position remains the same as it was after the talks between Lord Young and Commissioner Sutherland. That is, that some progress has been made in the discussions on the Rover deal."

It is understood that Lord Young was asked for a reduction of between £200 - £300 million in the write-off to reduce the debt write-off.

National parliaments 'doomed'

From Richard Owen
Strasbourg

M Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, yesterday stunned Euro-MPs by declaring that the existing system of national parliaments would have to give way to the "embryo" of a European government within the next seven years.

"My feeling is that we will not be able to take all the decisions which will be necessary from now until 1995 unless there is the embryo of a European government in one form or another", he said.

MEPs recalled Mrs Thatcher's recent statement to the Commons that a European central bank and a single European currency would not be feasible unless Parliament was dissolved and a European government formed, implying that it was a remote dream.

Backlash fear, page 11

Silent horror of an Iranian cold store

From Robert Fisk, Bandar Abbas

It is a long way from Washington to the Mossan food and fruit cold store at Bandar Abbas. Thus the Pentagon's clinical details of the last flight of Iran Air flight 655 cannot reflect the appalling human dimension of the carnal house where Leila Bebbahani, aged three, lies in her cheap chipboard coffin.

She was a very little girl and she still lies in the small green dress and white pinafore in which she died on Sunday when the US Navy missile struck the Iranian Airbus over the Gulf, killing Leila and her 289 companions on the plane. She was pulled from the water only minutes after the explosion and she looks almost as if she has fallen asleep, her left wrist decorated with two bright gold bangles, her feet still in white socks and tiny black shoes. Her name is crudely written in crayon on the coffin lid that lies prepared

beside her. Her equally small brother lies a few inches from her in another coffin.

Only the ice in their hair proves that they are awaiting burial. The great central cold storage hall of the old fruit depot is strewn with the same pale wooden coffins. "Yugoslav" it says on one. "Still unknown" on another. In one

Conciliation hopes... 10

corner a middle-aged man is peering over some corpses. He recognizes three members of his family - two he cannot find - and an Iranian trundles in with three more coffins on a trolley. There are 58 of them here, fringed by a row of human remains so terrible that it could only perhaps be described with accuracy in a doctor's report.

Iranian Revolutionary

Continued on page 24, col 1

Moscow names the Communists killed by Stalin

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

After Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's announcement that a monument to the victims of Stalin would be erected in Moscow, a Soviet newspaper has published a list of nearly 100 Communist party officials who died in the great purges of the 1930s and early 1940s. The list, and accompanying explanation, took up the entire back page of the Russian-language edition of yesterday's *Moscow News*.

The article, headlined "Naming Names", constitutes one of the most damning indictments of Stalin published in the Soviet Union.

He first tried to establish how many of the 115 people who were not re-elected were purged. Four were eliminated because he could find no details about them. Five had died for reasons unrelated to the purges; Voroshilov and Kirov had committed suicide and been murdered respectively; and seven were definitely known not to have been purged.

He was able to establish that most of the remaining 97 were victims of the purges. The result is a chronological list of those killed, with details of their last responsibilities and presumed date of death. The number of killings reaches its height in 1937 and 1938, then falls to two in 1941.

Among the familiar names are Bukharin and Rykov, who were recently rehabilitated, and Marshal Tukhachevsky. There are ministers - including Yagoda, Minister of Communications, and Yezhov, the notorious Interior Minister - and many less well-known regional party leaders.

While similar exercises have been conducted in the West to assess the scale of Stalin's purge, this is thought to be the first time such comprehensive information has been compiled in an official Soviet publication.

Mr Gorbachev's article comes after a flood of revelations about the Stalin

years which appeared before, during and immediately after the national party conference.

While these articles may indicate the continuing ascendancy of the anti-Stalinists and reformers, there are still powerful groups opposed to condemnation of Stalin. Mr Gorbachev's approval of the monument to the victims of Stalin has been condemned in some quarters as tantamount to undoing 50 years of Soviet history.

The arguments will go on even after building starts. Then, the point of contention will be who really were the victims of Stalin and whether they should include officials who acquiesced in the early purges only to be arrested months or years later.

Troops sent to Armenia, page 10

Football ID cards to be enforced

By John Goodbody
and Sheila Gunn

The Government yesterday announced the introduction of a national membership scheme with identity cards for all football supporters and gave a warning that if this and other measures to curb hooliganism are not successful then England's participation in international matches abroad, including the 1990 World Cup, is in jeopardy.

A Bill to restrict entry to football matches to members will be introduced as Mrs Thatcher made it clear that her patience with the football authorities has run out.

The Prime Minister opened a meeting at Downing Street by telling the representatives of the Football Association and the Football League of the "shame" at the way the name of the game has been disgraced by drunken hooligans, referring specifically to the recent riots in West Germany during the European championship, when almost 800 people, including 372 Englishmen, were arrested in a series of violent incidents.

After the riots Mrs Thatcher vowed: "We really must eradicate this blot on our reputation." Government sources said yesterday: "This sport is blackening the name of Britain across the world. The Government cannot leave that untouched indefinitely."

The 90-minute meeting ended with the setting-up of a number of wide-ranging measures to halt the spread of violence. These include increased activity by the police and new enforcement restrictions on the sale of alcohol near grounds.

The Government is also considering ways of prohibiting convicted football hooligans from attending matches in Britain or abroad.

Mrs Thatcher, who termed the behaviour of the minority of English football fans "a disgrace", has now acted strongly to stop the hooliganism which has been widespread for several years both in England and abroad.

The football authorities have defied the Government by refusing to establish a national membership scheme on the grounds that they do not believe it can be introduced on a voluntary basis.

Only 16 out of 92 clubs have introduced proper membership schemes since Mrs Thatcher first asked for tighter controls on admission after the Heysel stadium disaster in May, 1985, when 39 fans died after rioting by Liverpool supporters. She told the football authorities that this was not good enough.

As disclosed in *The Times*, the legislation to be introduced in the next parliament.

Continued on page 24, col 4

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NEWS ROUNDUP

TUC is accused of intimidation

Mr Eric Hammond, leader of the electricians, yesterday accused the TUC of attempting to intimidate his members on the eve of their suspension from Congress, and said he would respond with vigour if attacked by other unions.

The Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication, and Plumbing Union (EETPU) will be suspended tonight for refusing to scrap two single-union, strike-free deals, precipitating the most serious split in the TUC's history.

In a letter to Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, Mr Hammond said the decision not to extend tonight's deadline showed that the general council had no interest in the views of ordinary members. The 333,000 members of the EETPU are being balloted on whether to accept the TUC's rules, with the result scheduled to be declared on July 19.

Mr Willis replied that if unions were to hold ballots each time a disputes committee awarded against them the whole procedure would be unworkable.

Superpit grant plea

British Coal has asked the EEC for a £20 million loan to help develop the proposed new "superpit" at Margam in South Wales but has not shifted from its insistence that it cannot go ahead unless the National Union of Mineworkers drops its opposition to six-day working. The move will reopen the bitter division between the union's local leadership and Mr Arthur Scargill, the national president. South Wales NUM leaders are anxious to discuss flexible working but Mr Scargill is committed to a four-day week and end to overtime. British Coal's submission to the EEC makes it clear that the corporation wishes to proceed with the drift mine at Margam "provided the necessary economic criteria can be satisfactorily met".

Embassy deal agreed

Britain and Iran agreed yesterday to compensate each other for damage to their respective embassies when diplomatic notes were exchanged between the Iranian Charge d' Affaires in London, Mr Mohammad Mehdi Akhond Zadeh Basti, and Mr Robertson Younghead, of the Middle East department at the Foreign Office. Under the deal Britain will pay Iran £1,820,000 for damage to its London embassy in 1980 when the SAS stormed it, and Iran will pay £980,000 for damage to the British Embassy and British Council property in Iran during the 1979 revolution.

Conciliation hopes, page 10

Bullion jury still out

The jury in the Brink's Mat gold bullion trial were last night spending their fifth night at a hotel after failing to reach verdicts. They return to the Central Criminal Court today. Judge Lowry has told the jury he is prepared to accept majority verdicts in the case in which eight people are accused of handling proceeds from the 1983 robbery in which gold bullion worth £26 million was stolen from a vault near Heathrow Airport. The jury has told the judge that it was having difficulty reaching a unanimous verdict on one of the accused.

Catholic shot dead

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force yesterday claimed responsibility for killing a Roman Catholic man who was sitting on a wall in Dromore, Co Down, waiting for a lift to work. Mr Terence Delaney, a single man aged 30, fled when a gunman pulled up in a hijacked car and fired at him but he was pursued and shot twice in the head. Police believe that Mr Delaney's fixed routine - he waited in the same place at the same time each day for his lift - had been noted by sectarian killers looking for a "soft" Catholic target in a predominantly Protestant area.

Government accepts SAS ruling

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

The Government has decided that there is no point in trying to persuade Mr Felix Pizzarello, the Gibraltar coroner, to change his ruling about the appearance of the SAS witnesses at the inquest into the deaths of the three IRA terrorists in September.

Whitehall sources said yesterday that it was clear from the judgement that the coroner had delivered his final word on the subject. Mr Pizzarello, they said, had taken in all the arguments put to him and had made a balanced judgement. It was just that the ruling did not satisfy the conditions laid down by the Government.

The first instinctive reaction in Whitehall and in the military after the coroner's judgement on Tuesday was to say that there could be no question of the seven SAS men appearing at the

Belgian anti-terrorist police continued questioning Patrick Ryan at Foret prison in Brussels yesterday, as one report disclosed that the former Irish priest, arrested in Belgium for suspected IRA activities, had been seen in Gibraltar only days before the shooting of three IRA terrorists by the SAS. Meanwhile, the British link with events leading to Ryan's arrest has become clearer. Belgian security authorities say they were alerted by opposite numbers in London that he would be travelling on a false passport

inquest if they had to be seen by the jury and the lawyers.

The government counsel, Mr John Laws, had asked Mr Pizzarello for the SAS men to appear behind a screen and to be visible only to him.

However, sources said yesterday that the decision was not yet "set in concrete". Although there was grave

concern about the SAS men being compromised, there was a widespread feeling both in the Government and in the SAS Regiment that it would be better if they did appear at the inquest.

It is agreed that the Government's case would appear very "gutless" if the SAS men did not make themselves available for cross-examination. But whatever the Government decides, the final decision will be left entirely to the SAS men themselves.

Government sources repeated yesterday that there was no question of putting any pressure on them to go to the inquest.

Yesterday Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, urged ministers to hold an independent inquiry into the shootings if the SAS men did not give evidence. He said the Government had got itself into a "complete mess" over the inquest.

He said: "It is the Government which has said persistently that the

proper place for such questions to be dealt with is at the inquest.

"If the SAS men do not appear at the inquest, then the Government will have behaved at best disingenuously and at worst, deceptively."

Lawyers in Gibraltar, including the colony's attorney general, yesterday sprang to the defence of Mr Pizzarello.

Mr Eric Thistlethwaite, the attorney general, said: "It was a perfectly traditional ruling whether Whitehall likes it or not. I can see no grounds for it to be challenged."

The Gibraltar authorities are clearly irritated by criticism of the coroner after Mrs Thatcher had insisted that his court was the proper place for the only inquiry into the shootings.

Sir Joshua Hassan, former Chief Minister of Gibraltar, said: "The criticism of Mr Pizzarello is most unfair and most disturbing after he has carried out his judicial duties in such a responsible way."

Kinnock defends policy review

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday called on the Labour Party to face up to the future and accused the critics of his policy review of being afraid of change.

In a speech to the Parliamentary Labour Party aimed at rallying MPs after a month of internal troubles, the Labour leader criticised opponents on the far left whom he said were so "transfixed by Mrs Thatcher" that they had to do the precise opposite of what she did.

He attacked the boycotters of the review, including Mr Tony Benn. In refusing to face change they were saying that Labour should stand still in the name of socialism, which was absurd.

Mr Kinnock, who leaves Britain today for an 11-day tour of the southern African front-line states, delivered a vigorous defence of the policy review.

In a further twist to the debate over defence policy which has seriously lowered the public standing of Mr Kinnock and his party, the Labour leader emphasized his opposition to those who said that Labour should give up Britain's nuclear weapons without any negotiations.

Labour had to make a convincing case to the public who could see that the world had moved on. He told an MP who had argued the pure unilateralist case that the only way Labour could implement its non-nuclear policy was to win an election, and that was what they should be aiming to achieve.

He said Labour's new policy machine had replaced the "sprawling conurbation" of working groups and sub-committees which previously produced its programme. Out of 330 people populating those groups in 1982, more than 250 were from the Greater London area, and were overwhelmingly white, male and middle class.

The result was the "political mail order catalogue" of the 1982 programme in which the good and feasible material got buried.

MPs in rebuke for ministry over Westland

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence was sharply rebuked by an all-party committee of MPs yesterday for placing a multi-million pound helicopter contract with Westland just months before the company ran into its major financial crisis in 1985.

The ministry placed the main contract for the EH 101 Anglo-Italian helicopter without having completed a thorough investigation of Westland's financial prospects, the public accounts committee said.

This was an "undesirable risk" which would have had "serious financial and other consequences" had the government not mounted the rescue operation which led to the Sikorski takeover, the MPs said in a critical report on the ministry's handling of the £1.6 billion project.

The report is the latest of a series from Commons committees that have exposed major failings in the past performance of the ministry's giant Procurement Executive, and alarmed MPs are now looking to Mr Peter Levene, brought in from the private sector to head the executive in 1985, to produce a dramatic improvement. Reviews were conducted into Westland in 1977 and 1982.

In September 1983 the ministry decided it needed further information on Westland's trading prospects, but did not obtain it until June, 1984, three months after the main development contract was placed.

The ministry claimed that before placing the contract it had "sufficient assurance" of Westland's viability, but just six months later Westland told the government it faced a financial crisis.

In the light of Nimrod and other recent procurement fiascos that incurred huge costs overruns, they urge the ministry to use its full bargaining power to re-negotiate a maximum price so that it could be sure the £1.6 billion estimate was not exceeded.

Northern Ireland Airports, the state-owned company which owns and operates Belfast International Airport, has been found guilty by Ulster's Fair Employment Agency of operating unfair recruitment policies in that only 16 per cent of its 345 employees are Roman Catholics, while the airport is located in an area with a population which is 26 per cent Catholic.

Countdown to polling



Mr Dudley Fishburn, right, the Conservative candidate, talks with Mr James Brown, of Moving Artists, on the final day of campaigning (Photograph: John Chapman).

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The candidates in the Kensington by-election accused each other of dirty tricks, slurs, cheap jibes and scare stories yesterday as the long phoney war in the campaign for the Conservative-held London seat came to an end.

The most acrimonious exchanges came when the SDP claimed that it was being branded "racist" on the doorstep by the SLD over its call for curbs on the Notting Hill Carnival.

Mrs Rosie Barnes, the surprise victor of the Greenwich by-election shortly before the general election, claimed that Mr William Goodhart, the

SLD candidate, was personally responsible for the doorstep slur on Mr John Martin, his Owenite opponent.

Labour also joined in the fun with Mr Clive Soley, its campaign manager, describing Mr Martin's campaign as "Foujadist".

Mr Goodhart denied the SDP allegations.

PURPOSE OF LOAN:

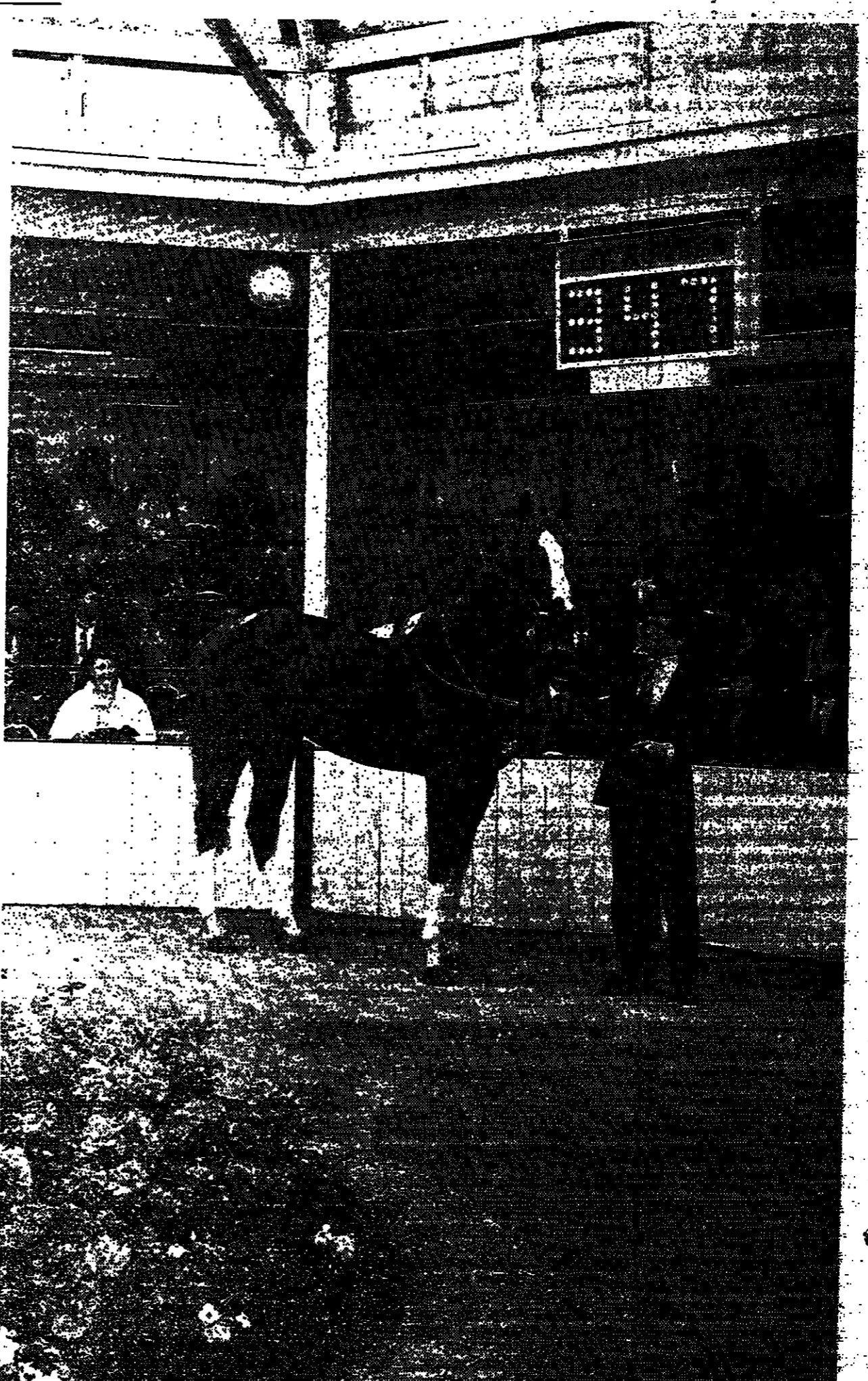
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Partial view of other newspaper pages on the right edge, including headlines like 'Boys ignore', 'Rail chief', 'Shops se', and 'Ode to a'.

Parents criticize teachers who took pupils up 6,000ft Austrian mountain

Boys killed on snow-slide 'ignored' leader's warning

By Howard Foster

The mother of one of four schoolboys who died after falling from an Austrian mountain yesterday strongly criticized the teachers who led their school party.

Mr Robert Wilson, the East Berkshire coroner, recorded a verdict of death by misadventure on the four - Lee Powell, aged 15, Michael Taylor, aged 13, and Andrew Watts, aged 14 - who were sliding, unsupervised by staff, in snow on the Untersberg mountain near Salzburg when they lost control and fell 200ft.

After the verdict, Mrs Christine Watts, whose youngest son died in the accident, said: "I think the teachers showed by all the statements they made in court that they were negligent in leaving the children."

"I trusted them not to do that and they did", said Mrs Watts who had been the secretary at the school concerned, Altwood, Maidenhead, for 18 months. "I knew they would be sliding, but there was never an indication that it was on a mountain."

Another bereaved parent, Mr Michael Powell, said: "Those teachers will have to live with that for the rest of their lives."

Berkshire County Council is to launch its own investigation into the circumstances surrounding the pupils' deaths within the next few days, but had been waiting for the outcome of the inquest.

A spokesman for the council said: "The coroner made no criticism of the teachers whatsoever, but we will be looking at all the factors involved."

The pupils were on a winter

trip when they died on the Untersberg.

Two other boys, Thomas Plumridge and Richard Davies, both aged 14, saved themselves by grabbing branches as their four companions disappeared over an edge on the 6,000ft mountain, the court in Maidenhead was told.

Children in the 45-strong school party said Mr Brian Lee, the teacher in charge of the trip, lectured them at length on the dangers of straying from mountain paths.

Before the incident happened, many of the children went to a safe sliding area on the mountain top with four supervising teachers. Some subsequently left by cable car to return to their coach, while the others remained near the summit, playing in the snow.

Mr Lee reiterated his warning before leaving half the pupils and three teachers at the summit while he guided 20 pupils down the mountain, he told the court.

One of the remaining teachers, Mr Steve Witney, admitted yesterday that when his group of children wandered into the snow in the afternoon, no teacher accompanied them.

"From previous experience over nine years, taking into account the weather conditions, having been out there in the morning and having never had so much as a sprained ankle on any mountain, it did not seem necessary", he said.

Mr Wilson asked him: "Had nine years back run out?"

Mr Witney replied: "It would seem so."

Mr Lee said a different party of six pupils, including

some who died later, went snow-sliding on their own away from the safe area earlier in the day, although he had forbidden it.

He agreed under cross-examination by a solicitor representing the family of one of the dead boys that because no roll-call was made at lunchtime, the late arrival of the six went unnoticed.

"I was under the impression all the pupils were back", he said.

Miss Jackie Smith, another of the teachers, told the coroner that she did not think it was necessary to accompany the pupils on their afternoon sliding session.

It was also agreed in court that parents were not informed before the trip that sliding in the snow would be part of the children's agenda.

Mrs Watts said: "The only thing we were told was that they went up the mountain. We were never told that they would be allowed to slide about up there."

"It is very difficult for parents to realize what it was like up there. I assumed that they slid at the bottom on a low slope."

She was told the only time children were left unsupervised was in Salzburg in the evening, after their activities on the mountain.

One of the surviving pupils, Richard Davies, said in a statement read by the coroner: "We were told to keep to paths and not to wander off."

He said that he and the other five boys involved went off together after lunch without the teachers.

"We saw a slope going off to our right and going downhill", he said.

"I remember seeing posts on our left. I knew it was dangerous to go past these posts. I didn't see any posts to the right, so I thought it was safe to go down there."

"The path or slope we went down had bushes scattered around. We were sliding down this slope and were soon out of sight of the cable car station."

"I didn't know where the three teachers were. We were stopping and starting as we had to go round corners and bushes."

"We had quite a few slides, always away from the cable car station", he said.

"I suddenly went over the brow of a slope and it became a lot steeper. I decided I didn't want to go down there. I was going faster and I grabbed a branch. I saw Tom just behind me. I couldn't see the other four", he told the court.

"I assumed they had gone over the brow of the slope in the distance."

"I stood for about five minutes shouting, but didn't get any answer. I decided to go back to the cable car station to tell the teachers."

He said he told Mr Witney and Mr Lee what had happened and a search began.

Thomas Plumridge, the other survivor in the group, said the six boys formed a chain as they slid away from the path. He managed to grab the last bush before the edge of the slope where his friends disappeared.

Other children described how the two survivors made their way back to the cable car looking shaken and how, when Richard Davies burst into tears, they all became concerned for the safety of the missing four.



Aftermath of a tragedy: Mr Brian Lee (top), who led the school party, arrives at the inquest in Maidenhead yesterday into the deaths in Austria of (from left) Michael Taylor, aged 13; Andrew Watts, aged 14; Lee Powell, aged 15; and Daniel Howton, aged 14.

Portfolio Gold

Bonus for the family

Mrs Margaret Pickerill, a teacher at a college in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, won yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio prize. She is married, with three children, and lives in Steeple Morden, Cambridgeshire.

She said that her preference was to take her family abroad with some of the money that she has won. Mrs Pickerill said: "I think that if we are paying, our children will probably decide to join us, but we have yet to discuss where to go."

Lawyer denies five charges

Mr Rudy Narayan, the black rights barrister, was accused of professional misconduct at a Bar Council disciplinary tribunal at the High Court in London yesterday.

He denies five allegations concerning two trials held at Birmingham Crown Court in September 1986 after riots in the city. The hearing continues today.

Fight over will

Mr Leslie White, aged 64, who faces eviction from his home at Little Marcle, Hereford and Worcester, after his common law wife, Joan Fleetwood, left her £500,000 estate to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said yesterday he would challenge her will.

10p damages

Mr Michael Kay and Mr Jeremy Helm, two buskers who sued two policemen for wrongful arrest, assault and wrongful imprisonment after being removed from a London Underground station, were each awarded 10p damages yesterday by a jury at Westminster County Court.

BR reports biggest surplus

Rail chief's pledge on profit

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

British Rail has had what may be its most successful year yet financially, with surpluses and investment at record levels, and the highest numbers of passengers for 27 years.

It expects to achieve its target of reducing the subsidy it receives for unprofitable passenger services to £605 million in the present financial year, one year ahead of schedule.

The subsidy was £1.08 billion in 1983, and British Rail hopes to achieve a further reduction to £477 million by 1992-93, it says in its annual report and accounts for 1986-87, published yesterday.

Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said that the surplus was a certain road to disaster and had been gained at the expense of the travelling public.

He said the report confirmed that the customers' demands were still taking second place to the Govern-

ment's instructions on reducing costs.

Senior members of British Rail dismissed suggestions that the good results meant that privatization would be brought forward.

Senior officials have had three meetings with Department of Transport officials, but it is said that those were only about possible alternative strategies, and that it is likely to be at least three or four years before studies can be completed, and policies formed.

Sir Robert Reid, chairman of British Rail, said that by any standards last year had been a very successful one, but the railways did not yet produce a uniformly improved quality of service.

The passenger volume, at more than 20 billion passenger-miles, was the highest for 27 years and that had led to overcrowding.

He added, however: "This year's surplus will be ploughed

back into the business in higher investment to increase capacity and continue the expansion and modernization of the system."

Investment last year, at £543 million was the highest annual figure yet.

There was an operating profit last year on the railways of £109 million before interest, the best in the 25-year history of the British Railways Board. When income from property sales and recovery of redundancy costs were taken into account there was a group surplus of £291 million, the highest yet.

The InterCity long-range passenger express services, which had an operating loss of £86.2 million last year, are expected to be in profit by 1990.

The commuter services of Network SouthEast, which had an operating loss of £170 million last year, are expected to move much closer to making a profit.

Shops sell 'dangerous' meat

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

A survey of delicatessens and butchers' shops by the Consumers' Association showed that well over half were selling cooked meats covered with "dangerous" levels of bacteria.

In publishing the results in today's *Which* magazine, the association calls for tougher hygiene rules and a new code of practice for the sale of loose ready-cooked meats.

Random inspections of shops in Luton, Bedfordshire, and Bradford, West Yorkshire, revealed that all the butchers' shops and delicatessens visited had "suspicious" or "dangerous" hygienic practices.

Laboratory tests showed that five of the 15 inspected were selling meat covered

with *E. Coli*, the bacterium associated with recent faecal contamination. Supermarkets were generally found to have better standards, although samples bought at all five had levels of bacteria which experts consider unacceptable.

"The worst two supermarket samples had total counts of 10 million and 100 million bacteria per gram, compared with our maximum acceptable level of one million per gram", the association said.

"Consumers can't rely on a shop's appearance or the behaviour of its staff as any guarantee that the cooked meats on sale are fit to eat", the association said.

● Innocent travellers who are searched by customs officers

as they enter the country need more protection under the law, according to the Consumers' Association. The latest issue of *Which* says that the onus is currently on the individual to know his or her rights rather than on customs officers to spell them out.

Legislation about to be introduced would impose some protection, the magazine says. Travellers will be told that they have a right to appeal to a JP or a senior customs officer before a strip or intimate search is carried out.

Additionally, a written record of what has taken place should be handed over to the traveller. The magazine notes that the customs authorities are worried that such moves could hamper their work.

Ode to a summer's sale day

By Robin Young

More than 300,000 people yesterday braved the discomforts of the Piccadilly Line and the wrath of traffic wardens and police towaway vehicles to save some pounds on a store full of slightly outdated fashions, formerly unwanted furniture, whose herds of white elephants, and wide selections of less than perfect goods known in the trade as "seconds". Once again it was the first day of Harrods' sale.

Customers no longer queue in large numbers for this event. The store in Knightsbridge the day before to buy or reserve what they want. Others have realized that Harrods' supplies of sale goods are practically inexhaustible, and can wait a few hours.

4,000 sweaters, 6,000 dresses, 25,000 shirts, 14,700 tennis balls and 89,000 bars of soap do not disappear in the first few hectic moments.

Even this year's star bargain - a double row of South Sea pearls reduced from £88,000 to £44,000 - was still available late yesterday afternoon.

The opening countdown was performed by Dame Edna Everage, the alter-ego of the Australian comedian Barry Humphries, who arrived in Harrods' own Rolls-Royce shortly before 9am.

A few dozen customers at the head of the queue of about five hundred were admitted to the entrance foyer to hear the Dame read an ode she had composed for the occasion.

The Australian star, whose West End show ends on Saturday, then toured the store for two hours in company with the Harrods chairman, Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed, frightening children and cheerily insulting customers.

Dame Edna was by no means the most outlandish figure to be seen in the store. In the Way In department, one young woman sported a part-shaven head, witch's make-up, and a hairstyle composed of orange spikes and black tassels.

Tradition was upheld in the food halls, where last year's Christmas puddings could be bought for this year's festivities at 25 per cent off. In the wine department, champagne was down £2.35 a bottle.



THE CLEVELAND INQUIRY

Children failed by every care agency

By Peter Davenport

The entire network of agencies responsible for the care and protection of children failed in their task in Cleveland, leading to the crisis in which dozens of families were torn apart following allegations of sexual abuse, according to the report by Lord Justice Butler-Sloss which was published yesterday.

None of the agencies escape criticism, much of it scathing, for their role in the affair. But although many of the key figures who featured in the unfolding events of last year are also taken to task, none is held individually to blame.

As well as analyzing a remarkable period in the social history of the country, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss produced a catalogue of more than 100 recommendations to ensure that such an event can never occur again.

Taken together they represent a rewriting of the entire field of social care in an attempt to come to terms and deal with a sensitive and previously taboo subject.

The judge makes recommendations concerning the children, parents, social services, police, medical profession, the courts and the media. She says that the reasons for the crisis in

Cleveland were complex but in essence included a lack of proper understanding by the main agencies of each others' functions in relation to child sexual abuse, a lack of communication between the agencies, and differences of views at middle management level which were not recognized by senior staff.

The report says: "It is unacceptable that the disagreements and failure of communication of adults should be allowed to obscure the needs of children, both long term and short term, in so sensitive, difficult and important a field. The children had unhappy experiences which should

not be allowed to happen again."

Most of the 121 children diagnosed as sexually abused by Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt, the consultant paediatricians, were separated from their parents, 70 per cent or so by place of safety orders, with 67 of the children being made wards of court.

Of the 121, diagnosed over a five-month period using the controversial technique of reflex anal dilatation (RAD), 98 are now back at home.

The report says that although Dr Higgs' role was central, she alone did not create the crisis. To place all the responsibility on her "is to distort

reality" and would be an unjust over-simplification of the complex series of events.

However, Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt are criticized for the "certainty and over-confidence" with which they pursued the detection of sexual abuse.

The report also criticizes the police and Cleveland Social Services. Mr Christopher Payne, Chief Constable of Cleveland, and Mr Michael Bishop, the county's Director of Social Services, failed to understand the depth of disagreement between their staffs.

The report's main findings, conclusions and recommendations are summarized below:

The doctors

Higgs' unshakeable convictions caused unnecessary distress

Dr Higgs qualified in 1974 from the University of Adelaide Medical School. She moved to the United Kingdom in 1977. She is married with five children.

She has specialized in paediatrics throughout her medical career and between 1979 and 1986 was based in Newcastle upon Tyne.

She worked in various hospitals in the Newcastle area, and developed her two interests of neonatal intensive care and child abuse. She spent six months working in general paediatrics under the late Dr Christine Cooper, a leading authority on child abuse and a powerful advocate for better services for "damaged children" and their families and in touch with the American experience of child sexual abuse.

In 1983 she attended a two-day conference on child sexual abuse at the Northumbria Police Headquarters. In June 1986, Dr Cooper invited her to accompany her to a conference in Leeds on child sexual abuse. It was the first time she heard Dr Wynn lecture and saw her slides.

She was offered the South Tees job in June 1986 and it was deferred to January 1, 1987 to enable her to complete some research in Newcastle.

It was clear from the evidence that Dr Higgs had a warm relationship with children, many of whom became very fond of her. During the period January to July, Dr Higgs was given the opportunity on numerous occasions to consider some of the consequences of the way in which she dealt with cases of child sexual abuse and the effect upon children, parents, health services, social workers and police.

She was asked to think about various aspects in different ways, but all spent caution. These conversations were in three contexts:

● Asking her to look at the management of the children and scarcity of resources.

● The acceptability of the diagnosis was questioned both by fellow medical practitioners and by laymen.

● Ethical considerations. These occasions required Dr Higgs to consider her practice and to justify her actions. She continued to have to do so throughout the summer in the Juvenile Court and the High Court and, in November, in her long evidence to the Inquiry.

From her evidence she gave us a clear impression of calm certainty and unshakeable conviction about the correctness of the diagnoses made by her during the entire period of the crisis. She gave little

indication of any change of attitude to the approach to management of this problem.

However, allowances have got to be made for the difficulty of a witness who had not finished giving evidence in wardship proceedings, and had not yet been involved as a potential defendant in projected civil litigation. Nevertheless, in the light of all that had gone before, we found this to be a matter of some concern.

She answered the suggestion that she might have been guilty of over-zealously seeking out cases of sexual abuse thus: "That is obviously quite untrue. The children in which I thought there were signs of sexual abuse I felt were children that needed to be examined in that way for a variety of reasons, as well as having referrals from other agencies, such as social workers."

There is plenty of evidence that Dr Higgs is a caring, competent, hard-working doctor, with a particular expertise in the care of children.

She was aware that sexual abuse of children occurred and that until

Wise advice of others ignored or overlooked

recently it had passed largely undetected. She believed that paediatricians had a responsibility to right this wrong and that the majority of her professional colleagues were not engaged in looking for evidence of sexual abuse in their care of children.

She and Dr Wyatt gave each other great support in this field. She relied thereafter upon the anal dilatation test as diagnostic, rather than raising suspicion and requiring further investigation. It was only rarely that she relied exclusively upon anal dilatation as the only physical sign. There is no doubt, however, that she relied heavily upon the sign in support of her diagnosis.

Her methods of diagnosis, followed also by Dr Wyatt, was to exclude other factors and come to the conclusion there was no cause other than sexual abuse. This elimination of other factors did not allow for the boundaries of present knowledge and the possibility of the unknown.

From the evidence, we are satisfied that she did not examine children for sexual abuse other than on occasions when, in her professional judgement, there were grounds to do so. Further, we have in general no reason to question the accuracy of her clinical observations.

It was the certainty of the conclusions drawn from the findings which was open to criticism. She was prepared to reach a

conclusion upon sexual abuse and give an unequivocal diagnosis, without giving an opportunity for others such as social workers to obtain a wider assessment of the family.

Her enthusiasm and authority placed her in the position of professional leadership. It is easy, with hindsight, to see how the situation began and developed.

What is less easy for us to understand is how Dr Higgs let it go on. It only came to an end when others installed and operated mechanisms which precluded her taking action on her own. Her view that she was discovering abuse which was "there to be found" never faltered during the months of May and June, and while abuse of some children did come to light, the numbers admitted got out of control.

The numbers of children diagnosed by her or by Dr Wyatt in outpatient clinics, sometimes on a single day, never appears to have given her pause for thought.

She showed an inability to understand the point of view of others or appreciate their difficulties during the crisis. There was from time to time a marked lack of communication with other professionals trying to cope with the problems which arose, such as the nurses. Her obvious ability to deal with children and empathy with them did not extend to their parents.

Both she and Dr Wyatt saw opposition as the denial of those who could not recognize and acknowledge the problem which existed. In as much as Dr Wyatt called it "managing the denial", both of them ignored or overlooked wise advice from others they might have heeded, including Dr Wynne. Their belief in the validity of the conclusions from the physical signs led them into over-confidence in the diagnosis.

In many cases the result of her diagnosis caused unnecessary distress to children and their families. She did not recognize the place of the resources in Cleveland to meet the crisis. If intervention was to take place on the scale implied by her practice, she shared with others a responsibility to ensure that the resources necessary to meet the needs of the children were available.

In assessing and criticizing her part in the events last year, we have in mind that she alone did not create the crisis. She was one among many professionals and shares with others the responsibility for what happened. To place it all upon her is to distort reality, and an unjust over-simplification of the complex issues which arose in Cleveland.

Wyatt deaf to words of caution and to appeals for restraint

Dr Wyatt is aged 38, and is married with 3 children. He qualified in 1973. Early in his medical training he developed an interest in paediatrics and has considerable experience of children from deprived and disadvantaged backgrounds.

His first consultant position in August 1983 was with the South Tees Health Authority, based on the Middlesbrough General Hospital. He has had special experience in burns, oncology and neonatology.

He assumed an enormous workload in South Tees and tackled it with energy, determination and enthusiasm. His duties were such that he took outpatient clinics most days of the week and almost always started his ward rounds in the evening, sometimes late, continuing to the early hours of the morning on occasions. He has emerged as a dedicated, conscientious, extremely hard-working doctor, caring and considerate with children and parents.

Prior to 1987 his knowledge and experience of child abuse was limited, and of child sexual abuse minimal. The first case of sexual abuse he saw in Middlesbrough was two months or so after his arrival in 1983. The child was a baby of 6 weeks with a vulval tear.

He saw the injury as a case of non-accidental injury and was surprised when the police informed him that the father had admitted he had sexually abused the child.

Several of his patients about

whom he had concern due to their failure to thrive, were seen by Dr Higgs during May and diagnosed to have been sexually abused. The diagnosis of sexual abuse in one family was a significant milestone in his growing perception of the problem. Dr Wyatt told us that the diagnosis in respect of this family caused him great concern because he realized he had been looking after the children for some time and had missed the true diagnosis.

Once Dr Wyatt was convinced of the significance of the anal dilatation test, he took a leading role in the detection of sexual abuse. His energy and enthusiasm was fuelled by his belief that he had previously failed some of his patients. During June he did not stop to consider the wisdom of admitting large numbers of children over the same period.

During June he, as well as Dr Higgs, diagnosed considerable numbers of children as sexually abused and admitted them to Middlesbrough General Hospital. He did not seem aware of the effect upon the nurses of the volume of admissions and the problems of coping with the children in hospital.

He was aware that there was local opposition from Dr Irvine to the diagnosis but he was not aware of the wider dispute. Until a late stage in the crisis the sum of his knowledge of anal dilatation came from demonstrations by Dr Higgs and his own recent practical experience.

Dr Wyatt is a dedicated doctor

totally and single-mindedly committed to the care of his patients. The arrival of Dr Higgs at the beginning of 1987 opened his eyes to the problem of child sexual abuse. He felt strongly that he had been failing some of his patients and resolved to modify his practice. He was not inhibited by his lack of experience.

In the same way as Dr Higgs he eliminated other possible causes, made a diagnosis of sexual abuse and did not allow for the present limited state of knowledge. He accepted the sign of anal dilatation with enthusiasm and acted upon it on almost every occasion.

Once convinced of the validity of the diagnosis he took a leading role in the detection of children considered by him as having been sexually abused, and in their admission to hospital. He shared with Dr Higgs the beliefs in the need for the place of safety order, the removal of the children from home and the restriction or denial of access to parents in the cause of 'disclosure work'.

The volume of admissions did not give him any cause to reconsider his practice. He was deaf to words of caution or appeals for restraint.

The pressure of the work had a marked effect upon his approach to parents which was commented upon by some parents as very different from his previous caring attitude to them. There can be no doubt that during May, June and the early part of July both doctors were grossly overworked.



The supporting cast in the Cleveland drama (clockwise from top left): Mrs Sue Richardson, Cleveland's child sexual abuse consultant; Mr Michael Bishop, director of social services; Mr Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough; and Dr Alastair Irvine, the police surgeon.

The MP

Remarks 'added to problems'

Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough and a member of the Bar, was instrumental in bringing the problems in Cleveland to the notice of the House of Commons and played a significant role in the later stages of the crisis.

He had alleged that there had been a fundamental attack on family life, disrupting the lives of people, including children. Cleveland Social Services were "empty, building" and "acquiring substantial additional financial resources; and that the police were obstructed."

He suggested that the social services lacked compassion, sensitivity, respect for people and a sense of social justice. The Cleveland inquiry found that not to be an accurate or fair description of the approach of the social services department or of individual social workers.

There was disruption of people's lives, but the inquiry was satisfied that there was no intention to make a fundamental attack on family life.

The report said Mr Bell's "intemperate and inflammatory remarks" on television or to newspapers "had a part in exacerbating an already very difficult and sensitive situation". Commonsense and moderation was needed.

The report said Mr Bell recognized that he did not have all the facts. "We were sad that he was unable, in the light of the further knowledge that he clearly had, to withdraw or modify allegations which could not be substantiated."

The social services

Management errors deepened crisis

Prior to 1987 Cleveland's Social Services Department, comprising 4,677 staff, considered itself a positive authority in the field of child care. In particular, it had taken constructive action on criticisms of shortcomings in child care set out in an Audit Commission investigation in 1985.

The tensions and fundamental differences of view which characterized the position of senior middle managers of police and social services were masked by the long established working relationships of staff in the field. Two cases in March, however, threw differences between the police and social workers into sharp relief, polarizing their positions. They affected the ability of the two agencies to respond appropriately to the large numbers of cases that were subsequently identified.

The end of April/beginning May marked the watershed. The crisis was mounting. Between May 1 and 8, 23 children were admitted to Middlesbrough General Hospital. Other children were diagnosed by Dr Higgs as showing signs of sexual abuse after being examined during their attendance at paediatric out-patient clinics.

Together they formed a substantial group of children in whom signs of sexual abuse had been diagnosed, without there being a complaint either from the child or from a third party.

The admission of a large number of children was brought to the attention of Mr Michael Bishop, Director of Social Services,

immediately on May 5. No analysis of where the children came from or how they got to hospital appears to have been prepared or asked for. At this time, senior staff were preoccupied with the implications of alleged abuse occurring in a well-established foster-home and children allegedly reabused whilst in care.

The process of breakdown was now becoming clear. There was a rising conflict between agencies attempting to grapple with a serious and delicate problem without an agreed systematic approach. Its absence was to become increasingly apparent in the playing out of personalized conflicts which bedevilled the management of individual cases.

Mrs Sue Richardson, Cleveland's child abuse consultant, became a focus for the anger and frustration felt by the police and the senior police surgeon.

With no agreed response between the agencies, services were hopelessly overloaded. The sense of urgency with which matters were pursued, whilst understandable, was inappropriate; matters would have been better handled in a calm and organized manner. Without effective management, the practitioners in both social work and medicine were being overwhelmed by their own activities.

Mr Michael Bishop Mr Bishop has been Director of Social Services in Cleveland since 1982. By the third week of May he was

aware of the increasing numbers of children and the growing tensions with the Police. He approached the Chief Constable for a meeting but a further two weeks passed before they met.

On May 29 he issued the memorandum which constrained the professional practice of his social workers. The importance of issuing some guidance to staff had been urged on him by Mrs Richardson.

Mr Bishop agreed that he was not an au fait with the detailed knowledge of some of the issues. He did not discuss the content of the memorandum with anyone other than Mrs Richardson. He would have been wise to test the advice she gave him by discussing it with his senior staff.

Both Mr Bishop and the Chief Constable must bear a responsibility for failing to recognize and seek to resolve the differences which were impeding the effectiveness of their staff.

Whilst staff at an operational level had made real efforts to work together, there was evidence of over cautious attitudes amongst some middle and senior ranking police officers and a lack of understanding of the realities which have to be faced by the police on the part of some middle and senior managers in the Social Services Department.

At no time in the crisis was any attempt made to bring all three agencies - health, social services and police - together. Mr Bishop was well placed to initiate such a

meeting; it was sad that he did not think to do so.

Eventually the sheer weight of numbers and the loss of public confidence created a situation where Mr Bishop had to take control.

Mrs Susan Richardson

Mrs Susan Richardson was appointed a Child Abuse Consultant in Cleveland Social Services in the summer of 1986.

She had 15 years' experience as a practising social worker. Her commitment was to social work practice. She had not previously had senior managerial responsibility. She had become knowledgeable, through her experience, about the problems of child sexual abuse.

Where sexual abuse had been diagnosed she thought the only way to achieve effective management of a family was to take control by means of a place of safety order.

Mrs Richardson worked alongside Dr Higgs. From her own experience, she believed that the things the children had said substantiated the diagnosis. She was quite firm in her belief in the validity of the diagnosis.

She was concerned to ensure children were protected. She told us that the possibility of misdiagnosis had not occurred to her. There has not been a shred of evidence to support claims of collusion, conspiracy, bad faith or impropriety between Dr Higgs and Mrs Richardson.

The police

Entrenched stand an obstacle to change

One of the principal points made in the police evidence is that prior to the arrival of the social services child abuse consultant in 1986, arrangements for dealing with child sexual abuse were effective and relationships with social services good. But the police saw themselves as the sole agency in the investigation of sexual abuse and they invariably took the lead.

The other main difference had to do with medical examination - whilst the police were willing to accept the evidence of any suitably qualified medical practitioner, they wished to retain the provision for the engagement of police surgeons. Social services did not consider that such provision in child abuse cases was necessary.

The police accepted that they were slow to change their approach and reluctant to agree the new emphasis on inter-agency

participation in the investigation of child sexual abuse.

The failure to consider and understand the complexities of child sexual abuse led to an entrenched stand to resist changes in procedures and thus caused delays in the development of new guidelines.

According to the police, the crisis arose from the diagnosis of sexual abuse by Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt by means of reliance placed upon the test of anal dilatation. In some cases the police found no further evidence in support of the initial diagnosis upon which they could take action.

The police took no positive and constructive steps to improve understanding by social workers and paediatricians of the difficulties facing the police. Later there was a clear division of medical opinion, as a consequence of which the police and social services were moving in different

directions bound to bring them into conflict. It was the responsibility of senior staff and the respective chief officers to try to resolve the dispute.

Police surgeons

Dr Alistair Irvine, Cleveland's senior police surgeon, qualified as a registered medical practitioner in 1966 and has since been in general practice.

He saw about 161 children in just over two years on suspicion of sexual abuse and made 58 positive findings, 17 of which were of anal abuse. The report deals with his relationship with Dr Higgs. He saw her as inflexible. The first time Dr Irvine actually examined children diagnosed by Dr Higgs as sexually abused (as far as the Inquiry has been made aware), was a family on May 27, the day after Dr Higgs had seen them. He examined all three children and found no signs of sexual abuse.

The examinations and findings confirmed (if it was indeed necessary) Dr Irvine's very strongly held views about Dr Higgs' diagnostic techniques. He told us that he believed that Dr Higgs, by the use of a faculty diagnostic test, was wrongly removing unanalysed children from their parents.

He was aware of the numbers of children taken from their homes and became increasingly concerned that what was happening was a grave injustice.

He decided to bring the matter before a wider audience and elected to enter the public debate. His involvement in the public debate became more and more highly charged and it undoubtedly contributed to the dispute between the police and the social workers.

Dr Irvine is an efficient and conscientious police surgeon who tried his best to face the difficulties relating to child sexual abuse.

THE CLEVELAND INQUIRY

The conclusions: Unhappiness must not be allowed to happen again

Conflicts obscured the children's needs

The reasons for the crisis are complex and in essence include:

- Lack of a proper understanding by the main agencies of each others' functions in relation to child sexual abuse
- Lack of communication between the agencies
- Differences of views at middle management level which were not recognized by senior staff and eventually affected those working on the ground.

Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt became the centre point of recognition of the problem. Between them in the five months - mainly in May and June - they diagnosed sexual abuse in 121 children from 57 families.

Children were referred to them in various ways; some were brought by social workers because of a suspicion of sexual abuse or allegations or complaints; others were referred by family practitioners, health visitors, or community medical officers because of a suspicion of sexual abuse; a few from within the hospital were referred by junior medical staff or by nurses.

In some the diagnosis was made on children attending outpatient clinics with medical conditions in which the possibility of sexual abuse had not been previously raised. Many were siblings of or connected with those children.

By reaching a firm conclusion on the basis of physical signs and acting as they would for non-accidental injury or physical abuse; by separating children from their parents and by admitting most of the children to hospital, they compromised the work of the social workers and the police. The medical diagnosis assumed a central and determining role in the management of the child and the family.

It was entirely proper for the two paediatricians to play their part in the identification of sexual abuse in children referred to them. They were responsible for the care of their patients. Nonetheless they had a responsibility to examine their own actions; to consider whether their practice was always correct and whether it was in the best interests of the children and their patients.

They are to be criticized for not doing so and for the certainty and over-confidence with which they pursued the



Lord Justice Butler-Sloss with members of the inquiry team at the publication of the report at Middlesbrough Town Hall yesterday (Photograph: Graham Wood).

detection of sexual abuse in children referred to them.

They were not solely nor indeed principally responsible for the subsequent management of the children concerned. However, the certainty of their findings in relation to children diagnosed by them without prior complaint, posed particular problems for the police and social services.

Another element was the attitude of the police, encouraged by their senior police surgeon, Dr Irvine, who took the view that Dr Higgs was mistaken in her diagnoses. The police retreated from the

multi-disciplinary approach into an entrenched position. They can be criticized for allowing a rift to develop and taking no effective step to break the deadlock.

There was a failure by middle and senior managers in each agency to take action appropriate to the seriousness of the situation. The disagreements between the police and social services were allowed to drift and the crisis to develop.

In particular, the chief constable and the director of social services failed to understand that depth of the disagreement between their staff and as a

consequence failed to take some joint action to bring their two agencies together.

It is unacceptable that the disagreements and failure of communication of adults should be allowed to obscure the needs of children both long term and short term in so sensitive, difficult and important a field. The children had unhappy experiences which should not be allowed to happen again.

It is however important to bear in mind that those who have a responsibility to protect children at risk, such as social workers, health visitors, police and

doctors, have in the past been criticized for failure to act in sufficient time and to take adequate steps to protect children who are being damaged.

We hope that professionals will not as a result of the Cleveland experience stand back and hesitate to act to protect the children.

We are also concerned about the extent of the misplaced adverse criticism social workers have received from the media and elsewhere. There is a danger that social workers, including those in Cleveland, will be demoralised. Some may hesitate to do what is right.

The children Girls were woken to face the camera

The inquiry did not permit children to give evidence. To redress the balance, the Official Solicitor was invited to seek the views of children aged eight and over who wished to speak and to put their views to witnesses.

Not believed: This girl was examined by Dr Higgs after a referral for failure to thrive and sexual abuse was diagnosed. A second opinion by Dr Roberts called the diagnosis into question. The girl told her social worker that her step-father had got into bed with her every Thursday night for two years.

The girl thinks she was referred to hospital because she suffered growth problems similar to those suffered by her half sister. She was examined by Dr Higgs who explained what the examination would entail. The examination did not hurt and caused no embarrassment. She stayed in hospital for about ten days and photographs were taken. She had been examined by Dr Higgs on two further occasions, once at 11.00pm. She had been woken up for this but had not minded. She had been seen by Dr Roberts for a second opinion. She had taken a long time to tell her female social worker what had happened to her - her step-father had told her no one would believe her. She thought "it" had happened to her because her step-father did not like her. She had not been able to talk to her natural parents about what had happened to her.

She was fond of her social worker, and found that they had helpful discussions. She felt happier than she had for a long time.

This child and her half-sister were made wards of court. The elder sister went to live with her natural father with reasonable access to her mother but no access to her step-father. Her half-sister was placed in the care and control of her mother, both children to be under the supervision of the county council and the younger child to have regular medical examinations.

Dislike of Doctors: Two girls aged 8 and 9 were examined by Dr Higgs after referral by the social services department.

The two girls arrived home from school to be told by their mother they would have to see Dr Higgs. The appointment was for 7.00pm but they waited in a cubicle until 9.00pm. Their parents were not allowed to see them. They were examined separately, it took "ages" and it hurt. They said their bottoms had been pulled right out. They were sent out and a lady and gentleman went in. After the doctors had spoken to their parents the children were told by the lady and gentleman that they would have to stay in hospital. They were not allowed to see their parents and no explanation was given to them as the reason for them having to stay.

The next day they were interviewed by a social worker and Dr Higgs was there - the younger girl would not speak to them. There were video recordings made of interviews. The younger girl complained that she had been woken by Dr Higgs for photographs to be taken. She had never liked doctors and did not want to see one again.

The uncle of these children was charged with indecent assault, he committed suicide in prison. The stepfather was charged with indecent assault and unlawful sexual intercourse.

Sound training essential for interviewers

All those who provided evidence to the inquiry were agreed on the following points to be observed in conducting interviews. The inquiry endorses their views:

- The undesirability of calling them "disclosure" interviews, which precluded the notion that sexual abuse might not have occurred.
- All interviews should be undertaken only by those with some training, experience and aptitude for talking with children.
- The need to approach each interview with an open mind.
- The style of the interview should be open-ended questions to support and encourage the child in free recall.
- There should be, where possible, only one and not more than two interviews for the purpose of evaluation.
- The interview should go at the pace of the child and not of the adult.
- The setting for the interview must be suitable and sympathetic.
- It must be accepted that at the end of the interview, the child may have given no information to support the suspicion of sexual abuse.
- There must be careful recording of the interview and what the child says, whether or not there is a video recording.
- It must be recognized that the use of facilitative techniques may create difficulties in subsequent court proceedings.
- The great importance of adequate training for all those engaged in this work.
- In certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to use the special skills of a "facilitated" interview. That type of interview should be treated as a second stage. In such cases, the interview should be conducted only by those with special skills and specific training.
- We consider that video recordings are a helpful step and with the necessary consent, are in the interests of the child.

The recommendations: how to safeguard the interests of children and parents

Extent of sexual abuse must be recognized

There is a need: To recognize and describe the extent of the problem of child sexual abuse; To receive more accurate data of the abuse which is identified.

Children

We recommend that professionals recognize the need for adults to explain to children what is going on. Children are entitled to a proper explanation appropriate to their age, to be told why they are being taken away from home and given some idea of what is going to happen.

Professionals should not make promises to a child which cannot be kept, and in the light of possible court proceedings should not promise that what is said in confidence can be kept in confidence. Professionals should always take seriously what the child has to say.

Throughout the proceedings the views and the wishes of the child, particularly as to what should happen to him/her, should be considered by the professionals involved with their problems. The views and the wishes of the child should be placed before whichever court deals with the case.

Children should not be subjected to repeated medical examinations solely for evidential purposes.

Children should not be subjected to repeated interviews nor to the probing and confrontations type of 'disclosure' interview for the same purpose. The consent of the child should where possible be obtained before the interviews are recorded on video.

The child should be medically examined and interviewed in a suitable and sensitive environment.

Those involved in investigation of child sexual abuse should strive to ensure that they act throughout in the best interests of the child.

Parents

The parents should be given the same courtesy as the family of any other referred child. Social services should confirm all important decisions to parents in writing.

Parents should always be advised of their rights of appeal. Social services should always seek to provide support to the family during the investigation.

The service of the place of safety order on parents should include a written explanation of the meaning of the order.

Social Services

Place of safety orders should only be sought for the minimum time necessary.

Whenever and wherever children are received into care the arrangements for access to their parents should be exceptional unless there are exceptional reasons related to the child's interests not to do so. In either event the parent should be notified in writing as soon as possible of the access arrangements and the avenues of complaint or appeal open to them if they are aggrieved.

Parents should be informed of case conferences and invited to attend for all or part of the conference unless, in the view of the chairman of the conference, their presence will preclude a full consideration of the child's interests.

When a case conference is presented with medical opinions should be asked to the doctors involved jointly with the review their findings in mind. If they are unable to establish a common ground then they should be asked to identify the basis of their differences. It would then be for the case conference to consider their

Privacy sought for victims in courts

Place of safety orders: There should be a statutory duty upon the Clerk to the Justices to keep records of all place of safety orders.

Applications for place of safety orders should normally be made in the first instance to the juvenile court during court hours, and only to a single magistrate if the court is not sitting or the application cannot be heard within a reasonable time.

Consideration should be given to the practice in the juvenile courts of attendance of children in court in highly charged cases with the press and large numbers of people present. We would urge magistrates to dispense with the attendance of the child or to arrange to see the child in a private room. It is appropriate to seek the views of the older child as to attendance at court.

Emergency Protection Orders: A single magistrate or the court should decide

access if a local authority sees need to suspend it after an order has been granted on presumption of reasonable access. Extension for seven days should be at the magistrates' discretion and not restricted to "exceptional circumstances".

Application for the disclosure of the whereabouts of a child should include the power to commit to prison for refusal to comply.

Any dispute over medical examination during an extension of an emergency protection order should be decided by the court.

A simple explanatory pamphlet should be published setting out clearly the rights and duties of "a person with actual custody".

Juvenile Court: Extension of interim care orders should be at the discretion of magistrates and not limited to "exceptional circumstances".

views in the context of the other information available.

Management

Senior managers in social services departments need to ensure that they have efficient systems available to allow accurate monitoring. Staff engaged in social work practice in the field of child abuse and child sexual abuse need structured arrangements for their professional supervision and personal support.

Social services departments should maintain an open continuing relationship with the police to review areas of mutual concern.

Police

The police should examine their organization to ensure there is an adequate communication network.

The police should develop, monitor and maintain communication and consultation with the other agencies concerned with child protection.

The police should develop and practise inter-agency working, including joint planning and interviews of children in investigation of sexual abuse within the family or caring agency.

The police should recognize and develop their responsibility for the protection of the child as extending beyond the collection of evidence for court proceedings.

The medical profession

It should agree a consistent vocabulary to describe physical signs which may be associated with child sexual abuse.

There should be investigation of the natural history and the significance of signs and symptoms which may be associated with child sexual abuse.

Consideration should be given to inquiring into the significance of the phenomenon of anal dilatation.

The doctor concerned should recognize the importance of taking a full medical history and making a thorough medical examination; of making where appropriate investigation for forensic purposes, for sexually transmitted diseases and for pregnancy in older girls; of completing full and accurate medical records which should provide the information for the protective agencies and the courts; and of preparing statements for police purposes and/or for social services or the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Before a medical examination for forensic or other evidential purposes unconnected with the immediate care and treatment of the child the informed consent of the parents should be sought.

Medical practitioners who have examined a child for suspected sexual abuse and disagree in their findings and conclusions should discuss their reports and resolve their differences where possible; in the absence of agreement identify the areas of dispute, recognizing their purpose is to act in the best interests of the child.

Area review and child abuse committees

They should review the arrangements for identifying and monitoring suitable training for professionals working with child sexual abuse.

The membership of these committees should include those who have the authority and responsibility to bind their agency to implementing the recommendations of the committee, and to play a useful part in the decision-making process which accurately reflects the view of the agency they represent.

Inter-agency co-operation

The development of inter-agency co-operation which acknowledges no single agency - health, social services, police or voluntary organization - has the pre-eminent responsibility in the assessment of child abuse generally and child sexual abuse specifically.

Each agency has a prime responsibility for a particular aspect of the problem. Neither children's nor parents' needs and rights can be adequately met or protected unless agencies agree a framework for their inter-action. The statutory duties of social services departments must be recognized.

Careful consideration must be given to the detail of working arrangements between doctors, nurses, social workers, police, teachers, staff of voluntary organizations and others responsible for the care of children.

Arrangements for collaboration between services must not inhibit prompt action by any professional or agency where this is demanded by the best interests of the child. Agreements over collaborative work should not inhibit or preclude doctors, social workers or

police officer from carrying out their primary professional responsibilities. The responsibility for the decisions will remain theirs.

Practical issues need to be recognized and resolved at local level in careful discussion between the respective agencies. For example:

- What the level of suspicion of physical or sexual abuse should be before the police are informed that an offence appears to have been committed;

- When and what parents are told when doctors see signs that may be indicative of sexual abuse;

- In what circumstances social workers should delay seeing parents until they have been interviewed by the police.

Managers should accept responsibility for ensuring that agreements reached are implemented in practice. Each agency should give an undertaking not to make unilateral changes in practice or policy without giving prior notice to the others.

The existence of bodies charged with the responsibility to co-ordinate practice between agencies does not relieve chief officers of their responsibility to ensure effective co-operation and collaboration between their services or to identify problems and seek solutions.

Specialist assessment teams

The team should consist of an approved medical practitioner, a senior social worker, and a police officer with sufficient authority to co-ordinate the investigation of cases.

The social services and the police will need to appoint to approved lists those officers who are trained, experienced and competent in work in the field of child abuse and child sexual abuse.

It is probably not in the interests of either the children, families or professionals or the agency for staff - doctors, social workers or police - to specialize solely in child sexual abuse.

The team should have access to specialist expertise - for example a child psychiatrist or gynaecologist, who would be consulted or brought in on cases of particular difficulty.

All agencies should refer cases to the inter-agency team when they are presented with or become suspicious of the possibility of sexual abuse on the basis of physical or behavioural signs alone or

where there is uncertainty as to whether abuse has occurred.

When child sexual abuse within the family comes to the attention of the police they should inform social services and consider the advisability of using a specialist assessment team.

If a professional suspects child sexual abuse, the danger of false identification ought not to be forgotten. Therefore when a suspicion arises the professional may elect to take no further action; hold a watching brief; or make further informal inquiries.

The level of concern may reach a point within the guidance agreed with other agencies where it is the duty of all professionals to inform others or refer to a specialist assessment team.

The team would normally be expected to present its findings to a case conference who will consider that information in the overall context of the case and make recommendations as to further action. While professional suspicion may be justified in a particular case, recommendations by a case conference to pursue a statutory intervention under child care law must be firmly based on evidence that can be elicited and brought before a court. Where such evidence cannot be found but suspicion remains, arrangements must be made for the continuing assessment of the child.

Training

Those responsible for the educational programmes of all disciplines involved in the care of children should immediately consider the introduction of some instructions on the subject of child sexual abuse in basic student training.

There should be general continuing in-service training for practitioners concerned with child care. There is an urgent need to give immediate in-service training to professionals to bring them up to date on child sexual abuse.

The investigation and the management of the child and the family where there is suspicion of sexual abuse needs considerable professional skill. We recommend specialized training for experienced professionals with immediate responsibility for the children and their families.

Police training needs to be developed well beyond the acquisition of knowledge of the criminal offences involved.

The medical profession needs to appreciate the legal implications of and its responsibility for the evidential requirements of their work.

Workers must have an empathy with children and "their feet on the ground". They must be able to cope with the stress that is experienced by all who deal with these children.

All lawyers engaged in this work including judges and magistrates should have a greater awareness of and inform themselves about the nature of child abuse and the management of children subjected to abuse and in particular sexual abuse.

Press and public

There should be clarity in the right of the press to attend court in the absence of the public. To protect the anonymity of the child, the decision whether any particular proceedings or part of proceedings is to be heard in public should be a decision for the tribunal hearing the proceedings in accordance with the usual procedure adopted in the High Court.

Guidance should be given on the right of the media to report on and publish information about children who are the subject of civil proceedings.

THE CLEVELAND INQUIRY

Professional guidelines

Doctors are urged to avoid separation of families

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Suspected victims of child sexual abuse should not need to be removed immediately from the family unless there are in physical danger, the Government's medical advisers said yesterday.

In new guidance issued to the medical profession the Standing Medical Advisory Committee says that the removal of the child must always be "weighed against the emotional damage which separation might do to the child and the family".

Immediate removal should only be considered where the child had suffered severe physical or emotional damage or where they had disclosed the identity of the perpetrator and a return could expose the child to more abuse.

The committee also endorses recommendations in the Butler-Sloss report and warns doctors not to rely on physical signs alone when diagnosing child sexual abuse.

After concern that doctors in the Cleveland crisis relied too heavily on diagnostic tests such as reflex anal dilatation, the committee has sent out new guidelines to the profession urging caution.

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly that no physical sign can at the present time be

regarded as being uniquely diagnostic of child sexual abuse", the committee said.

It also expresses reservations about some of the interview techniques used on children and the use of anatomical dolls.

It says they are designed to make it easier for the children to describe their experiences of abuse, but the "possibility that they might be harmful to children must be considered."

"These techniques and the use of anatomically correct dolls and of leading questions are controversial and there are few data on their validity."

"Such techniques should be used only by people who are highly experienced and trained in communicating with children and would be able to justify their use and findings in court."

The committee emphasizes the need to keep parents informed where child abuse is suspected. "They should be given every opportunity to communicate their worries and concerns in a non-accusatory atmosphere, even in those cases where the parents are suspected of being the perpetrators of the abuse, the

doctor should not adopt an accusatory stance.

"If further investigation is required, the reasons should be fully explained and the parents informed of the results. It is important to maintain positive relationships with the parents as far as possible throughout the whole process of the inquiry."

The committee's report says diagnosis has to be made and action taken against the knowledge that a mistaken diagnosis can be destructive to future child and family happiness. "Yet failure to recognize the problem can have lasting effects."

It also outlines a checklist of possible signs of child sexual abuse.

Serious suspicion should be raised when the child made clear verbal allegations of abuse, it says. "If this is a spontaneous allegation, it would be most unusual for this to be a fabrication."

The committee says moderate suspicion should be aroused when a child makes a verbal allegation of abuse, but in ambiguous terms, so that it is not clear precisely what sort of experience the child is describing.

Similar concern should be shown if a child is sexually provocative to adults or discloses detailed knowledge

of sexual matters in conversation, fantasy, or drawings, or appears preoccupied with sexual fantasies and behaviour; if the child responds to questioning by describing sexual abuse, but has not made a spontaneous allegation; or shows a specific fear—for example of a father, step-father or older sexually mature brother.

Mild suspicion should be aroused by a child who shows behavioural or emotional disturbance for which no other obvious cause is present; shows unexplained changes of behaviour; or makes a suicide attempt or runs away from home when there is no obvious cause.

The report, published by the Department of Health and Social Security, says that a particular type of family setting should not on its own be regarded as grounds for serious suspicion. However, moderate suspicion should be aroused if, for example, a child is living in cramped circumstances with a mother known to be a prostitute.

Mild suspicion should be aroused in family circumstances when there is an unusually close physical relationship between father or step-father and the child, against a background of marital discord.

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The test Doctors censured over RAD reliance

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The inquiry report criticizes both Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt for relying too heavily on reflex anal dilatation as a diagnosis for sexual abuse.

However, it does not dismiss the technique and makes it clear that signs of dilatation are "abnormal and suspicious", and should require further investigation. On its own, however, it was not evidence of anal abuse, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss concluded.

The inquiry findings are backed by the Standing Medical Advisory Committee, which said yesterday that there was still no proof of a direct link between the diagnosis and sexual abuse.

However, the committee also suggested that when RAD was discovered, it should raise the level of suspicion of abuse.

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly that no physical sign can be regarded as being uniquely diagnostic of child sexual abuse", the committee said.

About 18 of the 120 diagnoses of child sexual abuse in Cleveland were said to be based on RAD symptoms.

The inquiry said Dr Wyatt "accepted the sign of anal dilatation with enthusiasm and acted upon it on almost every occasion when it was present".

The examination for RAD involves lying a child on his or her side and asking the child to curl up, parting the buttocks to see if the anal canal opens.

Dr Jane Wynne and Dr Christopher Hobbs at St James Hospital, Leeds, have used this diagnosis for child sexual abuse for several years, and are regarded as pioneers in the field. It was through them that Dr Marietta Higgs first picked up the technique.

"We are satisfied from the evidence that the consensus is that the sign of anal dilatation is abnormal and suspicious and requires further investigation. It is not in itself evidence of anal abuse", the inquiry's report said.

In considering generally physical signs on a suspicion of sexual abuse, we endorse the observation in *Some Principles of Good Practice*: "Abnormal physical signs are rarely unequivocally diagnostic with the exception of the presence of semen or blood of a different group to that of the child."

"In a Hobbs/Wynne paper which formed part of their presentation, they said: 'The specific forensic examination must take place in the context of the whole child examination, which in turn forms part of the assessment of the family as a whole'. It is important at all times to have that advice in mind."



NEGLECT REFERRALS IN 1987

	Sexual	Physical	Other	Total
January	25	37	25	87
February	33	20	29	82
March	30	39	33	102
April	43	26	31	100
May	81	37	54	172
June	110	31	41	182
July	39	21	68	128
August	17	24	35	76
September	11	26	32	69
October	25	25	16	66
November	37	15	34	86
December	13	20	16	49
Total 1987	464	321	414	1,199
Avg/month	38	27	35	101
Avg 1st qtr	30	32	29	90
Avg 2nd qtr	78	31	42	151
Avg 3rd qtr	22	24	45	91
Avg 4th qtr	25	20	22	67
Under 16	3.44	2.38	3.07	8.90

Total in care January 1988 for sexual abuse (Referrals)/1,000 population

During the first half of last year, 121 children were diagnosed as victims of sexual abuse by Dr Marietta Higgs and Dr Geoffrey Wyatt. They came from 57 families in Cleveland, and 64 of them were connected to the children originally diagnosed.

Their children had been referred to the consultants at Middlesbrough General Hospital in several different ways; some by suspicious social workers; by GPs, health visitors or community medical officers, and a few were referred within the hospital by junior medical staff. In some cases they were simply children attending an out-patient clinic for unrelated illnesses in which the possibility of sexual abuse had never previously arisen.

More than 70 per cent were separated from their families, mainly on place of safety orders. Now 98 children have been allowed to return home.

The Cleveland County Council figures show that between January 1987 and May this year a total of 1,454 children had been referred to social services - 545 for sexual abuse. The number of such cases has now returned to the same level as before the rapid increase in May and June last year when Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt were diagnosing dozens of alleged cases. The figures for 1987 were January, 25; February, 33; March, 30; April, 43; May, 81; June, 110; July, 39; August, 17; September, 11; October, 25; November, 37; December, 13.

SUMMARY OF CASE CONCLUSIONS

	Dr Higgs	Dr Wyatt	Others
Number of children examined	102	55	8
No sign of sexual abuse	22	8	4
Signs sufficient for review	2	4	0
Sexual abuse diagnosed	78	43	4

The cost

A £9m bill which is set to climb even higher

The cost of clearing up the Cleveland child sex abuse crisis has reached about £9 million.

The bill for the 74-day judicial inquiry is estimated to be more than £4 million. More than 20 wardship cases, in which parents fought to win back 67 children, cost another £3 million.

Added to that will be the bill for at least 26 juvenile court cases and the cost of keeping 98 children taken into care who are now back home.

Cleveland County Council also spent more than £500,000 on the public inquiry in Middlesbrough. The Department of Health and Social Security paid £300,000 of that, and with police grants and medical defence union contributions the ratepayers will have to pay £39,000.

One wardship hearing in the High Court in Middlesbrough involving two sisters and their brother cost £148,000. Barrister's fees were £99,000, solicitors £39,000, guardians ad litem £7,500, and expert witnesses £3,000.

Many claims for damages from the parents against the two doctors and Cleveland Social Services will follow, which could run into millions of pounds.

The report of the inquiry into child abuse in Cleveland 1987 runs to 320 pages and contains 250,000 words. It is published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office at £14.50.

Senior nurses to play key role

By David Sapsted

Plans for comprehensive training programmes on child abuse for nurses, midwives and health visitors were outlined yesterday in guidelines produced by the Government's Standing Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee.

The guidelines envisage senior nurses adopting a key role in the detection of abuse cases, including sexual abuse, and establishing far better liaison with various organizations including the police, health authorities, social services and schools.

Health authorities are also told they must have an agreed, written policy on all cases of abuse and must produce their own guidelines on the procedures to be followed by nurses.

"We have identified a paramount need for nurses, midwives and health visitors to

have ready access to a senior nurse or midwife who is knowledgeable and experienced in the subject of child abuse", Mrs Suzanne Mowat, chairman of the advisory committee, said.

"The report also highlights the essential need for staff to be fully conversant with the health authority policy on child abuse, confident in the use of guidance and guidelines issued to them, and to receive regular updating, new knowledge and developments in the field of child abuse, including child sexual abuse."

The emphasis in the guidelines is on senior nurses to "provide effective leadership and supervision which necessitates keeping informed of current knowledge and practice in the prevention, detection and management of child abuse".

Police think twice before prosecuting

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Police are urged in a Home Office circular to consider alternatives to prosecution in cases involving the sexual abuse of children.

The circular, to chief constables in England and Wales, says that the main consideration is the protection of children considered to be at risk.

"It is likely that, in many cases, criminal proceedings will not be possible. The success of the police intervention, however, is not to be measured in terms of the prosecutions which are brought, but of the protection which their actions bring to children at risk."

When a case of abuse has been investigated and there is sufficient evidence to justify prosecution, police should consider whether there is an acceptable alternative, such as

a caution, which would best serve the interests of the child and its family.

Police should take full account of the views of other agencies concerned with the case, in particular those of the social services with whom investigations should be conducted and a joint decision reached. Use of video recordings would reduce the need for children to repeat interviews.

The circular recommends that medical examinations be made by a paediatrician with forensic training or jointly by a paediatrician and police surgeon.

Both police and social services should consider the need for the child to be removed to a place of safety, and whether to seek leave to have the victim taken into the care of the local authority or made a ward of court.

Extra £7m for social worker training

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Local authorities are to get £7 million to pay for extra training for social workers in child sexual abuse in direct response to the Butler-Sloss recommendations.

In a circular sent to all directors of social services the Government accepts that urgent action can and should be taken to improve and extend training.

The extra money is in marked contrast to the Government's refusal earlier this year to provide £40 million to fund three year training courses for social workers.

However Lord Justice Butler-Sloss echoed complaints made in former child abuse cases about insufficient training. "We regard training as an issue of central importance in ensuring that the special

needs of children who may or may not have been sexually abused are properly met."

Local authorities will be able to spend £10 million on training social workers this year, of which £7 million will come from the Government in a grant which will be protected against rate-capping.

The circular says discussions will start immediately with local authority associations on how it should be spent.

The Association of Directors of Social Services said yesterday the £7 million was "not enough". But it welcomed the new guidelines, which echo many of the recommendations of the Cleveland report, including the stress on inter-agency co-operation.

They lay down how area child protection committees, which bring

together social services, police, health authorities and NSPCC, should work. They also recommend that parents should be more closely involved with decisions about their children, where this is consistent with the child's interests.

The guidelines also endorse Lord Justice Butler-Sloss's proposal for specialist assessment teams to advise on diagnoses of abuse.

Relations between local social services departments, the health service and the police in handling child sex abuse cases are "generally good", according to a report published by the Social Services Inspectorate yesterday. The report, commissioned by the government last July, said all the agencies were putting a great deal of effort into developing inter-agency responses to child sexual abuse.

Reaction

Children not put first, says NSPCC

By Staff Reporters

The underlying problem at Cleveland was a failure to put the children first, Dr Alan Gilmour, director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, said yesterday.

He urged social workers not to become demoralized and emphasized that hundreds of child abuse cases were successfully dealt with every year.

The 121 children diagnosed by the two doctors was not an extreme number, he said. "At the time, it seemed a totally valid number of cases for a population that size."

"The report shows that they did find many cases that were valid. We believe sexual abuse on this scale is happening."

The NSPCC was concerned at the time that the subject of child sexual abuse would be swept back under the carpet.

"We did not want concern about Cleveland to mean that parents should be frightened of looking after their children, that fathers should be frightened of hugging and cuddling their daughters, that professionals should be frightened of diagnosing sexual abuse."

"I have been very re-

assured. I feel that there will not be a 'Cleveland effect'."

Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough, said there would have been a repeat of the Pled Piper of Hamelin story if he had not spoken out. "We would have been in a situation where many hundreds of children would have been taken from their parents, not only in Cleveland but up and down the country as well. The parents are fully vindicated by the report and the minister's statement."

"I feel fully vindicated in the steps I took on behalf of my constituents and their children. I played a proper role as an MP and I am sure any other MP, given the same facts and the same situation, would have acted as I did."

"The judge did not criticize me in the report and I never expected that she would. She took issue with a number of matters which I drew to the attention of the inquiry, many of which she found in my favour, and in some of which she did not."

"There is no more emotional subject than children being taken from their parents and if the judge feels I am guilty of an emotional response, then I plead guilty."

"The judge agreed with me

when I said there had been a fundamental attack on family life, and that there had been a lack of sensitivity on the part of the social services. She agreed there was disruption of the lives of people with serious consequences to the children and the families concerned."

"She agreed that the media had assisted me in my efforts to place the crisis in the public domain and recognised the need of an MP to represent the interests of his constituents."

The British Paediatric Association, of which Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt are members, said that it was pleased that no individual organization or person had been made a scapegoat by the report.

Dr James Appleyard, the association's spokesman, said: "You must have local mechanisms to stop excesses. People should have said that the situation was getting out of hand."

Less reliance should have been placed on the reflex anal dilatation technique by Dr Higgs and Dr Wyatt. "You just cannot rely in medicine on just one physical sign", he said.

He said that the Govern-

ment should now recognize the need not erode any further the country's child protection services.

The association believes a five-fold increase in the number of trained paediatric consultants is needed to avoid another Cleveland.

The Association of Police Surgeons of Great Britain said that the report's criticisms of the police surgeon, Dr Alastair Irvine, were "fair comment".

However, Dr Hugh de la Haye Davies, honorary secretary of the association, said that the report had great resource implications, with more police staff being needed to provide an improved protection service.

Mrs Johanna Halliday, mother of Dr Marietta Higgs, said that her daughter had been cast in the role of villain.

She said: "Marietta is being victimized for simply doing her job. As a paediatrician, if she suspects or knows children have been sexually abused then obviously she wants to help them. And that is all she has done."

"I hope all this controversy though does not affect her medical career."

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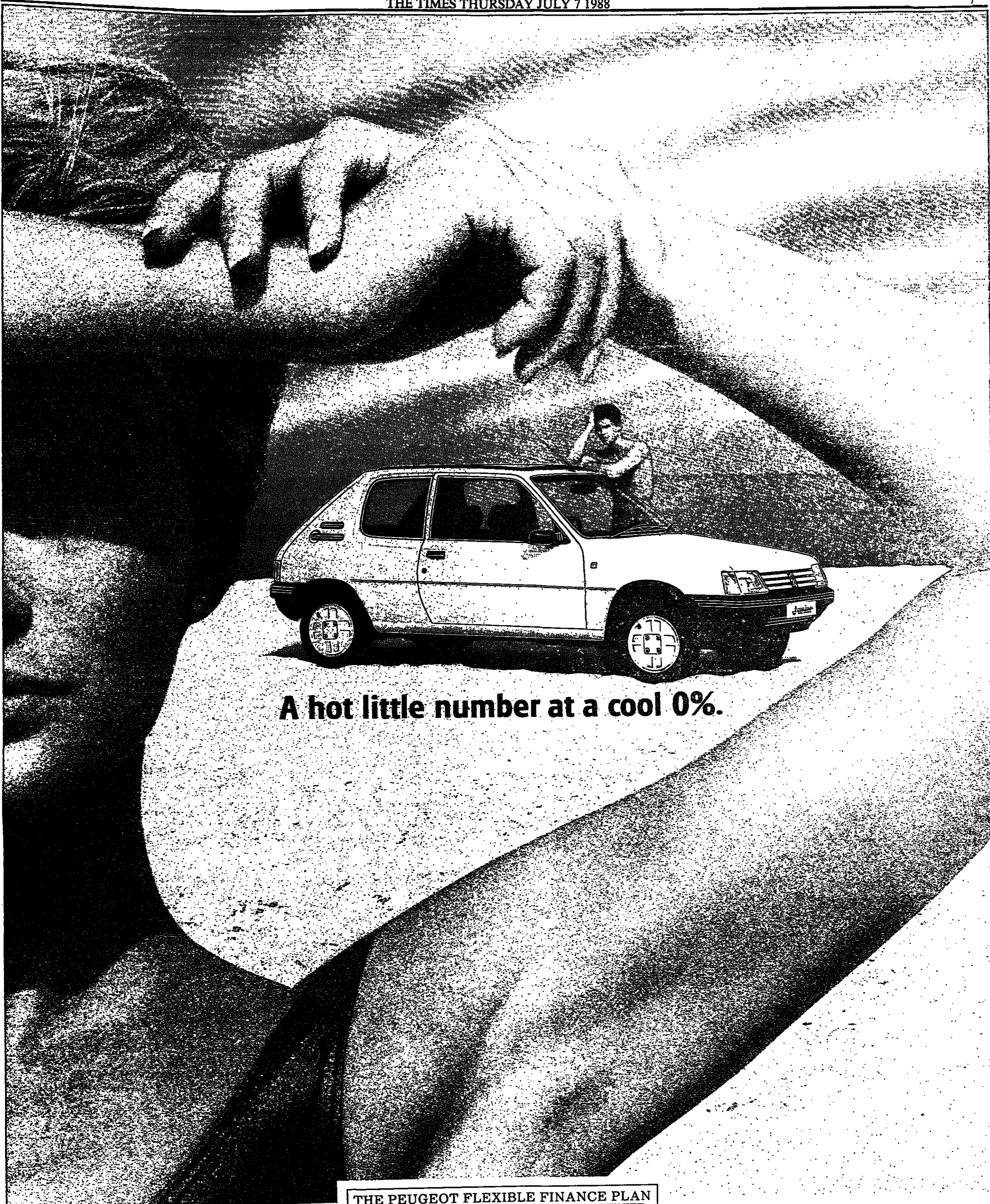
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Doctors back Aids tests in secret 'for patient's good'

By Robert Matthews

Britain's doctors yesterday decided that Aids testing should be carried out only with the consent of patients but that secret tests could still be allowed if the doctor believed it to be in the patient's best interests.

Doctors would have to be sure, however, that they could justify their actions before a court of law and the General Medical Council.

The decision, made at the British Medical Association's annual meeting in Norwich, was described as a "triumph for commonsense" by Dr John Marks, BMA chairman.

Last year, doctors went against the BMA council and voted for Aids testing without consent.

Under the new guidelines, doctors would be able to decide themselves whether a test should be carried out in secret in specific cases.

Dr Tony Keable-Elliott, who proposed the guidelines, put forward a hypothetical case in which a doctor asks for the consent of a patient who has travelled abroad and shows vague signs of Aids virus infection.

The test subsequently proves negative, but the patient, distraught at the mere prospect of a positive result, has told his wife of his indiscretions, and the marriage is destroyed in spite of the negative test result.

To avoid such situations it would be better if doctors did not inform the patient that a test was to be carried out, Dr Keable-Elliott said.

Dr John Dawson, chairman of the BMA's professional division, said that the new guidance was effectively a rule to be followed by all doctors, in that those who decided to go against the general principle of specific consent, would have to be certain they could defend their decision in court.

Patients could successfully sue doctors for assault and negligence if consent was obtained on insufficient grounds.

In spite of the decision to only allow only secret testing in special situations, the BMA decided that it would promote anonymised screening for the Aids virus in the general population.

It was also thought that anonymised screening would help to establish the resources needed to deal with any Aids epidemic.

A move to make infection with the Aids virus a notifiable disease, was, however, decisively rejected.

The BMA is to advise the Government that condoms should be freely available in prisons to reduce the spread of Aids among inmates.

The Home Office has so far resisted such a move, arguing that as homosexuality is only legal in private and prisons offer no privacy, providing

condoms would aid an illegal act.

Local health authority managers must be given total freedom of choice if the National Health Service is to become more cost-effective and waiting lists reduced, the Government was told yesterday.

The King's Fund College, a leading independent charity, in its submission to the Prime Minister's Review of the NHS, published yesterday, also said that local initiatives must be encouraged and success rewarded, but "failure" penalized by health authorities losing resources.

The idea is to create within the NHS many of the stimuli, incentives and sanctions of the market, so that innovation becomes a part of everyday life, the report declares.

The report points to Guy's Hospital, London, as an example of "traumatic" management change which nevertheless has, over the last four years, dramatically cut waiting lists while maintaining quality of care and staff morale.

The report, which was prepared by members of the College Faculty in consultation with several NHS managers, argues that building on recent NHS achievements and working to a national agenda will bring about significant beneficial reform quickly.

Talent, old and young



It takes one successful writer to recognize another: Mr Laurie Lee, author of Cider with Rosie, congratulates Helen Defty, aged six, of Warrington, Cheshire, the youngest winner in the W H Smith Young Writers' Competition yesterday. Mr Lee was one of the judges.

GCSE appeal fee is halved after pressure

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

The GCSE examination boards yesterday bowed to pressure and voted to halve the £100 fee they planned to charge parents who appeal against their child's examination results this summer.

But a meeting of the Joint Council for the GCSE, which represents the six examining groups, threw out a proposal from the London and East Anglian group to scrap the appeal fee altogether.

Instead, the council adopted a new formula under which its appeals subcommittee will have the power to refund fees to unsuccessful appellants if it thinks that their appeal was justified.

The decision to levy the £100 fee - which is refundable if the appeal succeeds - was widely attacked when it was announced last month. Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary for State for Education, had written to the joint council asking it to think again.

The chairman of the council, Mr Dennis Hatfield, chief education officer of Trafford, said: "We chose £50 because it was a reasonable sum to make people think carefully about appealing but not so excessively large that it would deter those who might find it hard to come up with the money."

Mr Jack Straw, the Labour education spokesman, who had called on the examining groups to abandon the charge altogether, dismissed yesterday's decision as "a half measure".

A spokesman for the National Union of Teachers

said: "We welcome the fact that the fee is no longer £100 but we still do not see why it should be as much as £50. It must raise in people's minds that there is an element of profiteering out of something which is very important to children and families."

Examining group sources said last night they feared a large number of appeals because the exam was taken for the first time this year by 700,000 fifth-formers.

Mr Colin Vickerman, secretary of the largest GCSE group, the Northern Examining Association, said 99.9 per cent of appeals were mounted by schools and parents would not have to pay.

The joint council, which met in closed session, also discussed the dangers of schools going ahead with unauthorized GCSE courses, disclosed in *The Times* yesterday.

Sources said that the examining groups shared the fears expressed by the Secondary Examinations Council that many teachers were unaware that pupils might be refused a qualification if they went ahead with unauthorized courses from this September.

Three East Sussex teachers who caused a controversy over GCSE history by coaching pupils for the more traditional Scottish O-grade have lodged a formal complaint against the local education authority, invoking the Act of Union of 1707, after claiming there had been a campaign of victimization against them.

The General Synod

Church unity moves approved

By Clifford Longley and Alan Wood

The next steps towards church unity in Britain were approved in principle by the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday. It endorsed the setting up of a network of new inter-church organizations to replace the British Council of Churches, which is due to be wound up in 1990.

The proposals before the synod were those that had been submitted to all the participating churches for provisional approval, following the successful conference of church leaders at Swarwick, Derbyshire, last year, at which the Roman Catholic Church finally declared its commitment to the process. It was not one of the member churches of the British Council of Churches.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, who is chairman of the inter-church committee handling the new arrangements, told the synod that the Church of England had "a terrible reputation" among the other churches for "saying one thing at one stage and then having second thoughts". He urged the synod not to endorse the proposals unless it really wanted them.

The Provost of Southwark, the Very Rev David Edwards, said he had misgivings about the new arrangements. The council had had a "vision of the Promised Land" which they had thought of as the goal of a "Coming Great Church".

He asked the synod to consider: "What is the vision that is going to make all the

meetings and all the work worthwhile?"

Miss Daphne Wales, chairman of the synod's Board for Mission and Unity, said the problem with the council was not the work it did but "the failure of ourselves to take it seriously."

The synod carried by one vote an amendment calling for the Church of England's executive body for "enabling groups" to be increased from two to three, and otherwise endorsed the proposals unanimously.

There can be no disguising the unhappiness of many members of the synod at the prospect of the bulldozers moving in to demolish Church House, in Westminster, London, next to the Abbey, containing the circular debating assembly, the Hoare Memorial Hall and related offices within its walls. Church House is in a conservation area but no part of it is listed.

Yesterday, the synod carried by 192 votes to 78 a motion expressing its opinion that the assembly hall in Church House, together with the other historic meeting rooms, should be retained for its use and its concern over the disclosure of "a wholly different set of financial and other factors" to those considered in February last year, when the evacuation in 1989 of Church House and the moving of staffs was approved.

They are due to be housed in new accommodation in the Millbank complex. The standing committee of the Church of England handling the move out and the redevelopment of the site was requested to reconsider the entire Millbank Project, as it is known, and report back urgently.

An amendment designed to support an approach to the Secretary of State for Environment for Church House to be considered for statutory listing as a building of special architectural and/or historic interest was lost but its mover, Mr Christopher Whitney (Hereford), indicated he had made a pre-emptive strike indicating that he had himself applied for Church House to be listed. He conceded that if listing went ahead, the value of the building would be halved, from £20 million to £10 million.

The call for second thoughts and retention of use by the Church of the assembly hall was led by Mr A R Lyon (Liverpool) who said that 25 developers as well as a number of institutions had expressed an interest in acquiring the building.

After Mr Gerald Charrington (Chelmsford) wondered where the £1m a year needed in future to run Church House would come from, Mr Michael Oakley (York) said he could not see why the building could not be adapted and modernized so that it would earn its keep. Professor David McClean (Sheffield), chairman of the

House of Laity, said £3 million had been committed to the Millbank project including a transfer of offices.

The synod was told by the standing committee, which is chaired by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie, that various options for an alternative meeting place had been considered and as a matter of prudence, provisional reservation of accommodation had been made at Kensington Town Hall.

The synod might meet there for the first time in February, 1990.

That prospect horrified Mr Michael O'Connor (Rochester) who described the town hall as "frightful". They ought not, he said, lightly to abandon Church House which had played such a major leading part in the life of the Church. If they had made a mistake they ought to see what could be done before it was too late. And rather than Kensington, the Rt Rev James Rosburgh, Bishop of Barking, put in some favourable words for his local assembly and concert hall.

Mr Oswald Clark (Southwark) warned that actions taken since last year limited their room for manoeuvre. He pointed out that there would be no income coming in from the middle of next year. Successfully urging Synod to have the whole issue reviewed, Mr Lyon said they could have a look at the matter and above all, influence the development brief.

New car sales are set for record year

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

More than 1,100,000 new cars have been sold in Britain in the first six months of 1988, with demand 10 per cent higher than in the first half of 1987. And after the highest June sales for nine years, the British car market is heading for a record 2,200,000 in 1988 - 100,000 registrations more than last year.

Car manufacturers are already preparing for record demand in August when between 400,000 and 450,000 new cars are expected to be sold.

Imports are now significantly higher than in 1987 and in June only 45 per cent of cars bought were made in Britain. Half the extra imports were Ford cars from continental

plants. Vauxhall also increased imports this year as UK demand has risen.

Ford continues to lead with a reduced market share of 26.9 per cent while Austin Rover sold 25,642 cars in June, compared with Vauxhall's 24,417. In the big car market, Austin Rover has sold more cars than last year though it has yet to improve its overall market share.

Behind the top selling Ford Sierra and Escort, the Metro overtook Ford's Fiesta for the third position in the best-selling league but the Montego slipped to ninth place.

After the increase in sales last year, the growth of Jaguar sales in June were in line with the market. Weak demand for

luxury European cars in America and poor June sales has forced Jaguar to cut its 1988 sales forecast from 28,000 to 23,000 - identical to 1987. In June sales of Rolls-Royces, Mercedes and Porsches were all markedly lower than last year.

Motorists are becoming more satisfied with garage servicing, yet one in five complain about work being too expensive, slow or ineffective, according to a Gallup survey published yesterday.

"There has been a small but consistent improvement in the way motorists rate garages", Mr Gordon Heald of Gallup said. The report from the committee on automotive repairs

and servicing underlines the growth of fast-fit motorist centres at the expense of traditional garages. Now 89 per cent of drivers prefer to go to a fast-fit centre rather than a dealer for replacement exhausts and tyres, citing quicker service and low cost.

When a car requires a specific repair, more than half of all motorists are now likely to go to a fast-fit centre, fewer than one third will go to a small local garage, with only 11 per cent entrusting their car to a main dealer.

The new car dealer carries out almost as much routine servicing as the garage which does not sell new cars, while one in six owners are content to service their own cars.

Koo Stark talks openly for the first time.

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- **WORLD EXCLUSIVE:** Koo Stark speaks about the 'scandal' and the persecution that she suffered from the press, and the scar it left on her.
- The second week at Wimbledon and Boris Becker talking about winning in life and love.
- The Prince and Princess of Wales enjoy themselves at our Polo day at Windsor.
- The stars of film and fashion meet at the wedding of Tom Conran and Katrine Boorman.
- Nabila Kashoggi at her secret refuge on the Cote d'Azur discusses her budding career as an actress.
- Prince and Princess Michael of Kent celebrate ten years' marriage at home with their family.
- Princess Stephanie's ex-boyfriend, Mario Oliver, with the new woman in his life.

See if you have won £5,000 in this week's Face-in-the-Crowd competition **HELLO!** on page 82.

Dealer must surrender Fabergé items

The High Court has ruled that Wartski, the London dealer, should surrender a group of items by Fabergé to Lloyd's underwriters, after it was decided that the pieces were probably stolen from the private collection of Sir Reginald Macdonald-Buchanan, of the whisky family, seven years ago.

SALEROOM by Sarah Jane Checkland Art Market Correspondent

Nicholas Snowman of Wartski said yesterday: "Seven years ago, we were offered some very nice things from Ogdens of Harrogate. I assumed Ogdens knew where they had come from, and anyway it would have been impertinent to ring Sir Reginald and ask whether he had sold them."

A year or so later, the heir of Sir Reginald reported the theft of the items.

Most of the pieces, a litter of piglets, a monkey and a hen, had stayed in Wartski's safe until the ruling last week. Mr Snowman said: "There is still no proof they were

stolen. It may well be that Sir Reginald brought them to London to have them valued at Christie's."

Old Masters were selling unexpectedly well at Sotheby's yesterday. An extremely grubby Canaletto, "The Redentore in a Capriccio Setting", fetched £440,000 against an upper estimate of £300,000.

It is probably one of a series of 13 overdoor panels commissioned by Joseph Smith, the British consul at Venice, and was sold to a private Swiss buyer.

Another impressive price was £374,000 paid by the London dealers Colnaghi for a painting of "St Jerome in the Wilderness" by the Siennese fourteenth-century artist, Lorenzo Monaco. The picture, barely 9in high, had an estimate of up to £120,000.

Julien Stock of Sotheby's expressed amazement at the determined bidding by private buyers.

Another newly-discovered work fetched £407,000, five times its upper estimate, to an anonymous buyer. It was "The Last Communion of Saint Mary of Egypt", a painting by the seventeenth-century Italian artist from Belluno, Sebastiano Ricci.

A bread basket made by Paul de Lamerie fetched top price of £203,500 at Christie's London yesterday, selling for double its estimate to the dealers Armitage.

Also at Christie's, a Queen Anne astronomical longcase clock in the possession of "The Lords Carrington" until 1900, sold modestly, on its lower estimate of £60,000, to Asprey.

Article, page 18

Checks on old people's homes double

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Inspections of old people's residential homes are to be doubled from a minimum of one to two a year, with one unannounced, the Government said yesterday.

The move comes after a scathing report from the Commons public accounts committee, which said some private homes were setting charges to reflect the maxi-

mum supplementary benefit that residents could claim, regardless of the service offered.

The committee ridiculed the idea that it was up to the old people themselves to ensure that they were getting value for money.

The Department of Health and Social Security said in a formal response to the com-

mittee that it now accepted that some old people needed help and advice.

It also admitted that further investigation was needed into whether old people getting income support should be assessed for clinical need before entering homes.

The committee reported that nearly a quarter of those in residential homes could

have stayed longer in their own homes had appropriate services been available, and that total supplementary benefit payments to old people in homes had risen from £18 million to £459 million between 1980 and 1986.

The department said that in more than 80 per cent of homes the basic charges were reasonable.

Colourful news this week and every week, 75p.

July 6 1988

PARLIAMENT

Cleveland suffering 'must not recur'

A comprehensive package of measures to ensure that what happened in the child sex abuse cases in Cleveland last year does not happen again was announced to the Commons by Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health.

It was for the authorities involved first to address the substantial criticisms of individuals and of the managerial responses in the report.

The lessons were reflected in comprehensive guidance being issued by the Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office.

They were also publishing, and distributing to the nursing profession, guidance for senior nurses on management of child abuse work from the Standing Nursing and Midwifery Advisory Committee to the Secretary of State.

The report gave general support to proposals for reforming the law, contained in the White Paper on the law on child care and family services, published last year.

His announcements covered most of the report's recommendations. Others were being urgently examined, and the Lord Chancellor intended to issue a consultation paper, before the summer recess, on the suggestion for an Office of Child Protection, with powers including scrutiny of local authority applications in care proceedings and calling for additional investigation or reports.

Cook call for urgent legislation on child care White Paper

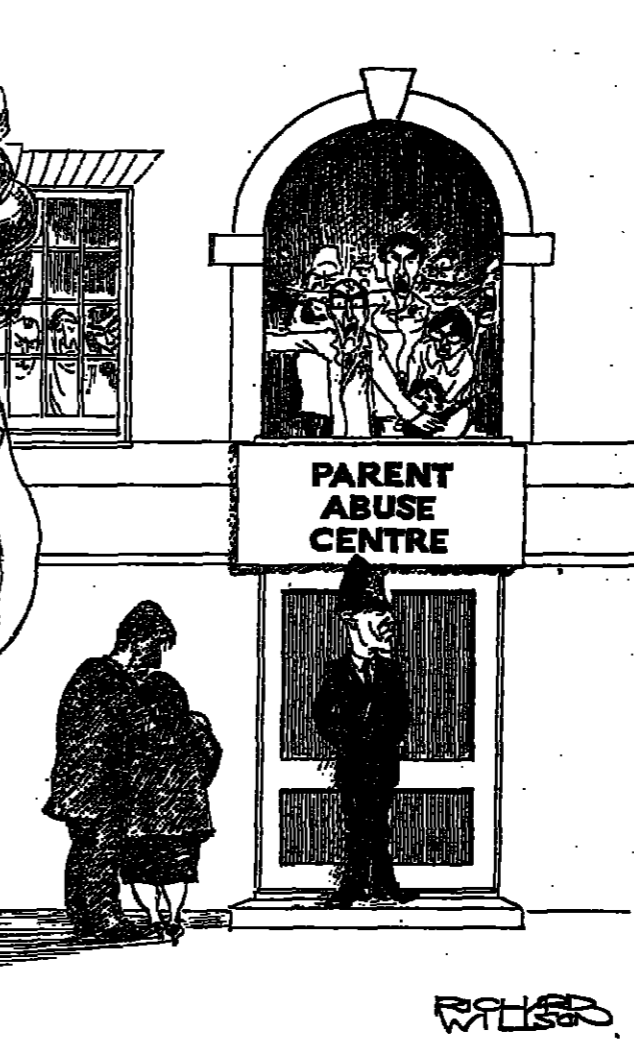
Urgent legislation to implement last year's White Paper on child care was called for by Mr Robin Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security, after Mr Tony Newton had made his statement to MPs on the Cleveland report.

CLEVELAND

the Government should take note of Lord Justice Butler-Sloss's support for the idea of family courts. One of the factors in the Cleveland crisis was the rapid way it generated a bottleneck in court proceedings.



Mr Bell, who welcomed Government's expression of regret to innocent Cleveland families "caught in this horrible vortex"



Mr Bell, who welcomed Government's expression of regret to innocent Cleveland families "caught in this horrible vortex"

Demand for a 'search' apology

Mr John Stanley, a former junior defence minister, and now Minister of State for Northern Ireland, should apologise for misleading the Commons on May 24, 1984, Mr Tom Padden (Stalybridge and Hyde, Lab) said in a point of order.

Afghanistan warning

A recent article by Bernard Levin in The Times was praised by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and a backbench Conservative MP during Commons questions.

Cranmer is refused

The British Railways Board had refused a request to name a locomotive "Archbishop Thomas Cranmer" in honour of his birth in 1489, as it did not readily meet its criteria, the Earl of Argyll, a Government whip, said during questions.

Bill proceeds

The Environment and Safety Information Bill, introduced in the Commons by Mr Christopher Smith (Stington South and Finsbury, Lab) and which gives the public the right to inspect notices issued by health and safety officials, completed its stages through the House of Lords.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister. Debates on estimates for defence, for housing and for local environmental and planning services.

Correction

It was Mr Ian Taylor (Essex, C) who spoke on the EETPU training facilities during employment questions yesterday, not Mr John M. Taylor as reported.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office questions

Howe defends Thatcher statement on Gulf

The statement put out by Mrs Thatcher after the shooting down of the Iranian Airbus in the Gulf on Sunday was defended by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, during Commons questions.

whose fate was a matter of great concern to everybody in the country.

endorse without qualification his description of the tragedy and horrors of this long-continuing conflict.

chair of the five permanent members committee to promote action to implement it.

support work being done by the Secretary General to try to ensure acceptance of the resolution by both sides.

Unesco decision after conference

The Government will decide whether to rejoin Unesco after its general conference next year, Mr Timothy Eggar, Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office, said at questions.

decision on membership.

Threats no help to Sharpeville Six

Appeals to the South African Government for clemency for the "Sharpeville Six" were unlikely to succeed if accompanied by threats, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during questions.

Labour and Tories claim to defend the NHS

The following report of a Commons debate to mark the fortieth anniversary of the National Health Service appeared in later editions yesterday.

Foot's historical protest

Speaking during the debate as the only MP still in the House who was present when Aneurin Bevan had introduced the NHS Bill, Mr Michael Foot (Barnes, Lab) (left) said that it had been the Opposition Front Bench that had led the Labour movement, that had kept the situation in the NHS at the forefront of debate.

Foot's historical protest

He found odd the reluctance to face the need for routine testing for the HIV virus. The Government had not taken the link between drugs and Aids anywhere near seriously enough.

Foot's historical protest

showed that the NHS was not merely keeping pace with rising demand but was moving ahead of it.

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Charge for Credit	£601.80	£803.24	£826.24	£888.32
Total Credit Price	£5449.80	£7273.24	£7481.24	£8045.32
3.7% (6.8% APR)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 33 1/3%)	£1616.00	£2156.67	£2218.33	£2385.67
36 Monthly Payments [†] of	£100.30	£133.85	£137.68	£148.07
Charge for Credit	£378.80	£505.27	£519.81	£559.19
Total Credit Price	£5226.80	£6975.27	£7174.81	£7716.19
2.5% (4.7% APR)				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£2424.00	£3235.00	£3327.50	£3578.50
36 Monthly Payments [†] of	£72.66	£96.98	£99.75	£107.27
Charge for Credit	£191.76	£256.28	£263.50	£283.22
Total Credit Price	£5039.76	£6726.28	£6918.50	£7440.22

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BOOKS

Letters by Boz

Peter Ackroyd reviews the facts behind the mythologies of our great Victorian novelist: in his own words, the bustling machine in the ghost

Dickens has often suffered at the hands of his admirers. For many years he was the familiar compound ghost - part Pip, part Copperfield, part Pickwick, and part Christmas. There was an inevitable reaction, of course; and by the Fifties he had emerged as a great propagandist and social reformer; then, in the Seventies, he acquired the quite new identity of despot, misogynist, and hysterical neurotic. Like all great writers, he became the mirror in which critics and biographers could view their own predilections.



THE LETTERS OF CHARLES DICKENS The Pilgrim Edition Volume 6, 1850-1852 Edited by Graham Storey, Kathleen Tilletson, and Nina Burgis Oxford, £80 CHARLES DICKENS' CHILDHOOD By Michael Allen Macmillan, £27.50

paradoxes - certainly he thought of it as somehow marked by fate, and there is no doubt that he took an actor's relish in playing it out as if it were a public performance. That is why these letters are in some ways difficult to fathom; even when he is at his most intimate, it is hard not to believe that he is adopting a part - as much for his own benefit as for that of his correspondent.

He was not a wonderful writer of letters - not in the class of Oscar Wilde or Virginia Woolf, but this was largely because he saw correspondence as an extension of his busy life rather than as a means of self-expression. So the letters tend to be short and to the point; there were times when he seemed to write simply to express the sheer joy of being himself, of transmitting his personality to others, but as his fame grew he became increasingly self-revealing. Nevertheless the true face of Dickens can be glimpsed on occasions - eager, impetuous, energetic, impatient. He was often willful and sometimes vain, but he was also a man of practical and even stern judgement. Dickens was constantly involved in the great movement of life.

that of the Home Office, and in the three years of this volume alone there are some 1,592 letters. These were the years of David Copperfield and Bleak House; it was the period in which he began to edit his weekly journal, Household Words, and to assist in the administration of a home for "fallen" women. He could never progress we must expect it to be concluded at some time in the 21st century. But there has been a lot of ground to cover - Dickens often compared his correspondence to

recreations were just another kind of forced labour. And if Chesterton was right in saying that his hilarity "had a kind of hardness to it", that is because he saw the world as a battle-field upon which it was necessary to emerge victorious. And, in a sense, these were triumphant years. He completed David Copperfield, a novel that provoked in him so strange a mixture of exhaustion and exhilaration that at the end "I seem to be sending some part of myself into the Shadowy World"; and he began writing Bleak House. But there were also personal misfortunes - the death of his

father, which is supposed by some to have provoked Dickens's "dark" period (although all of his novels are chequered by light and shade), was quickly succeeded by the death of Dora, his infant daughter. This second calamity occurred only months after he had killed off "my Dora" in David Copperfield and, if the malign coincidence is not enough, the news of his daughter's death was brought to him only seconds after a speech in which he praised actors for playing their roles even after they have "come from scenes of affliction and misfortune - even from death itself". But his life was full of such

GLYNN BOYD HARTE

So if this Pilgrim edition brings the man before us, the life of Dickens also becomes a glass in which we can see the period itself more clearly - the Ragged Schools, the lurid saloons of the East End, the pamphlets on temperance and domestic economy, the public meetings on social reform, the workhouses, the mass singing classes, the controversies over urban sanitation, the dinners for philanthropic organizations, the clamour about sanitation, the popular lectures, the begging letters, the benefit dinners. All are here because Dickens was involved in them all. The editors have done a miraculous job in the face of such an embarrassment of riches, and as a result they have set an example of literary scholarship to which all of us may aspire, but which few will be able to equal.

Do feminists paint?

NOVEL OF THE WEEK

Victoria Glendinning

THE TRUTH ABOUT LORIN JONES

By Alison Lurie Michael Joseph, £11.95

This is a splendidly cunning novel. You look at yourself and your friends more carefully afterwards. Alison Lurie's latest heroine, Polly, is disillusioned and angry after her divorce. She lives in a world of sympathetic, like-minded women, since, as everyone knows there are no good men over 30 in New York, only husbands and creeps. When Polly is commissioned to write the life of a newly fashionable woman painter, Lorin Jones (1926-1969), she looks forward to portraying a female genius thwarted in her lifetime by husband, lovers, and the male establishment; Lorin died neglected and abandoned. She interviews the men in her subject's life, encouraged by her friend Jeanne. Loyal, loving, supportive, everyone's dream of a best friend, Jeanne even moves into Polly's apartment to relieve her loneliness and share her bed. Polly identifies passionately with her subject, though there are enough arguments against biography in this book to make any biographer's toes curl. But Polly is sure she can get Lorin Jones right. She too was a painter, before marriage and motherhood super-

vened; and she understands Lorin's childhood, because it was just like her own. Just when the reader is getting uneasy about Polly on account of her knee-jerk hostility, to everyone of the opposite sex, the scenario begins to wobble. She discovers that everyone she talks to has a different idea of Lorin Jones. She finds that she likes some of the men who had been close to her. She begins to discern an alternative Lorin Jones - someone cold and self-destructive. Her uncertainties are compounded when she goes to Key West, the lush, decadent setting for the last third of this book. Here she falls heavily for a big blond man. But it's the relationship between Polly and Jeanne, her best friend, that is the cleverest thing in this novel. To describe how this sweet person, without ever changing her nature, somehow changes into a fiend in Polly's apartment would spoil the story. Jeanne isn't really a fiend. This is neither an anti-man nor an anti-woman book. There is no one truth about anybody. It all depends how you look at someone, and who's doing the looking.

She Star

FICTION

Philip Howard

LEADER OF THE BAND

By Fay Weldon Hodder & Stoughton, £10.95 BAUMGARTNER'S BOMB By Anita Dessal Heinemann, £10.95

The Leader of the Band is whom Sandra has run away with. He is Mad Jack on the trumpet, crazy in bed, and not all that integrated into the rest of life. Sandra's book is a fireworks display of her stream of consciousness, argument with and about life, intelligent feminist gynaeological and genetic polemics, and a reconstruction by collage of how Sandra has arrived where she's at: on a gig with the Citronella Jumpers in France. She is an astronomer who has become a telly star because she has discovered a new planet. Sandra is the result of a genetic experiment for which her SS father was shot. Her mother went mad. And her half-brother jumped under a train. In the circumstances, not surprisingly, she is not keen to give birth herself, though her stuffy lawyer husband, who married her because she was a celeb, wants children because they are the correct thing for a man in his position (judge material?) to have. You can deduce that this is not an everyday life of Everywoman, or a realistic novel. In some ways it is only a novel at all by fits and starts. Three of the incidental women in the story have their partritional histories glossed on at the end in the form of short stories. But it is a lively discussion about women and the world, and the tug between brains and biology. It is funny, and full of ideas. Anita Dessal's father was Bengali. Her mother was German. Her novel is a cleverly constructed German story within an Indian story, in which the past and the

present, ends and beginnings, work backwards and forwards towards each other in the life of an outsider of two worlds. Hugo Baumgartner was a Berlin Jewish boy who escaped on his own to India just before the bonfire. He is marooned by the war in India, and interned as a hostile alien. The Juden boy who was left out of German Christmas becomes the *firanghi* (foreigner) even though he has spent 50 years in India, and it has become home. Baumgartner now lives in stink and not-so-gentle poverty in a Bombay slum tenement, with a roomful of stray cats. Suddenly the past catches up with the present, and the present reverts to the past, when an Aryan junkie and drop-out drops into Baumgartner's life. The title sounds narrow, but it is a big book, full of life and affection for humans of all kinds and colours, who are to some extent, all of us, outsiders and strangers.

The Picasso pudding of gossip as art

As the song sagely observes, 'taint what you do, it's the way that you do it - that's what gets results. Many of Picasso's interpretations and conclusions are, if not exactly inoffensive, at least to sensible consideration unexceptionable. But it is not the what so much as the how of what is said that will get results. Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington (how does that fit on an American Express VIP card one wonders?) may well get some results she does not care for. It is unlikely, for instance, that readers liable to be appalled, or merely numbed, by the way her prose limps from cliché to cliché will look much further before

rejecting out of hand her Reader's Digest-psychoanalysis judgements on Picasso's state of mind at this or that crisis in his sex-life. On the other hand, some of the results may be considerably more agreeable: the style, undemanding as it is and devoid of all fine shading, will probably ensure that the story of Picasso's incident-packed emotional life is an absorbing read to thousands who would not know one of his paintings from a hole in the wall. To those who still say that there is no perceptible difference between a Picasso painting and a hole in the wall, or those who think it vitally important for the

John Russell Taylor

PICASSO Creator and Destroyer By Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16

health of modern art that the differences be much more widely and clearly understood. Mrs Huffington has little or nothing to say. The book is defiantly (and perhaps *faute de mieux*) about Picasso "the man", as distinct from Picasso the artist. Of course

it depends for its intellectual justification (if you can call it that) on insisting that the one cannot be distinct from the other: everything in the work is referred directly back to the latest happenings in the life (usually the latest woman in the life), and the work in its turn is rather uncritically pillaged for whatever autobiographical insights it might offer. Possibly with this key Picasso unlocked his heart. But if so, the less Picasso he. It is not necessarily that all this book's supposed insights on Picasso's psychology should be rejected. For instance, what the author has to say about Picasso's belated prostate operation in relation to

the slightly prurient nature of many of the late paintings, with their impotent voyeurism, certainly makes sense, even so simplistically presented. But by subscribing so wholeheartedly to the Romantic fallacy of art as autobiography, Mrs Huffington may gain a lot of simple-minded readers fascinated by *petite histoire*, and at the same time lose the credence of readers seriously interested in Picasso. Good for sales, bad for intellectual respectability. Still, Picasso would possibly be the first to see the joke that, even before publication, the film rights have already been sold. Which actor should play him?

- NEW HARDBACKS The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books: Against the Bomb, by Richard Taylor (Oxford, £32.50) Nuclear disarmament and the British peace movement, 1958-1965, analysed. A Touch of Genius, by Malcolm Brown & Julia Cave (Dant, £14.95) The life of T.E. Lawrence, half hero, half pseud, for centenary of his birth. Bernhardt, Terry, Duse, by John Stokes, Michael R. Booth, & Susan Bassnett (Cambridge, £15) Star actresses in their time and context. Mark Antony, by Alan Roberts (Malvern, £14.95) Life and times of the Boris Becker of the Roman Republic, who seldom gets his own biography. Mary Shelley, by Muriel Spark (Constable, £14.95) The first Spark reissued 37 years later, revised, retitled, with very Sparky preface. Post-Impressionists in England, edited by J.B. Bullen (Routledge, £50) Documents of the English critical reception of the new art from 1910-14. Reluctant Revolutionaries, by W.A. Speck (Oxford, £17.50) Leeds history professor examines Englishmen and the "Glorious Revolution". Robespierre, by J.M. Thompson (Blackwell, £19.95) Reissue of the classic biography, long out of print, with new foreword and bibliography. The Greatness that was Babylon, by H.W.F. Saggs (Sidgwick & Jackson, £25) Revised and updated classic of the vanished civilization. Theatrical Anecdotes, chosen by Peter Hay (Oxford, £12.95) Categorized from "child actors" to "first nights": don't, Mrs Worthington.



Makarios mischievously maligning

Spookery

David Hunt

THE FRIENDS Britain's Post-War Secret Intelligence Operations By Nigel West Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.95

The obsession of the British public with spies, theirs and ours, continues unabated. Mr West's book is about ours, though some of them were really theirs. It is consequently rather old-fashioned as a survey of British intelligence operations, because spies are normally unreliable sources even when not deliberately deceitful. Unimportant in war, in peace some may have to be given provisional credit for want of anything better, but the interception of cipher traffic and aerial or spatial reconnaissance are of infinitely greater use. Much of *The Friends* is therefore introspective, concerned with how one Secret Service discovers the secrets of another. The title is the euphemism for the Secret Intelligence Service used colloquially in Government circles. Mr West is not himself a "friend" but he has written several books on them. In this one he confines himself to affairs that are public knowledge already, with one exception to be noted later. His observations on the treachery of Philby and Blake are objective; these were dreadful failures, so great that for the period of their operations Britain would have been better off with no intelligence service at all. On the other side of the ledger are successes in encouraging defections from Soviet intelligence services. Without checking statistics I think more Soviet operators have come over to our side than

vice versa. Many were notable for high rank and important family connections in the Soviet ruling class. It is now their establishment that is disillusioned, while ours has gained in self-confidence. One task that SIS has lost with the end of Empire is the defence of colonial administrations from insurrection. In their last three cases they failed in Palestine, succeeded in Malaya, and had mixed fortunes in Cyprus. This kind of work relies on creating a large network of local informers, which might have been deduced from the fact that EOKA killed more Cypriots than British. I take issue with Mr West on one point, which has already had diplomatic repercussions: his statement that the SIS black-mailed Archbishop Makarios into signing the London agreement on Cyprus by threatening to expose his "rather unusual homosexual proclivities". The allegation against Makarios, suddenly produced 11 years after his death, is groundless. He had many deadly enemies both Cypriot and Greek - the Athens military junta, for instance - who did not scruple to attempt his assassination on several occasions. They would have been delighted to assassinate his character had they had the faintest inkling of such a story; and in Cyprus nothing remains secret. Secondly, the reasons why he signed are known from many accurate historical accounts. He was under vehement pressure from the Greek Prime Minister, Karamanlis, who spent most of the night before the signature in heated argument with him. The threat that Greece would wash his hands of Cyprus was a full, sufficient cause; and, by Occam's razor, it is unnecessary to look for another - especially a false one.

Two novels of great power and vision by SUSAN HOWATCH GLAMOROUS POWERS New in hardback £11.95 GLITTERING IMAGES New in paperback £3.95 Collins/Fontana

A REMARKABLE OFFER TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO THE TLS ... a compendium that deserves shelf-space in every home interested in language. THE CAMBRIDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LANGUAGE DAVID CRystal THE strengths of CEL lie in the enormous variety of information it contains from sign languages to automatic speech recognition, from glossolalia (speaking in tongues) to the complexities of the world's languages - nearly 1,000 are cited. A further cardinal virtue of the Encyclopedia is its accessibility. The whole production is imaginative and arresting. Terence Moore, TLS February 12 1988. Titles take a year's subscription and we will send you your weekly TLS plus a copy of THE CAMBRIDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LANGUAGE published by Cambridge University Press (worth £23) free. Simply complete the coupon below and send it with your remittance to the address shown. Annual subscription rates: UK £55; Europe & Eire £75; USA & Canada US\$90; Rest of the World (Surface Mail) \$73; (Air Mail) \$88. Please send me a year's subscription of The Times Literary Supplement plus my free copy of the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language. Name: (C) Address: Postcode/Zip Code: I enclose my cheque for £/\$US made payable to The Times Supplement. Please charge my credit card £/\$US Date: Signed: Expiry date: Please send the coupon together with your payment to Linda Duffell, The Times Literary Supplement, 100 Brook Street, London W1A 2JA, England. If this is your first time from the Times we will send you the next issue free of charge. Offer is open to new subscribers only and ends on 30 September 1988. Please note that delivery outside the UK can take up to 28 days. TLS THE LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

HEALTH

The surgeons' dilemma

PAULA YOUENS

A comparison of the skills of surgeons has resulted in a dramatic reduction in deaths in some hospitals. Jill Sherman asks if our lives could be in safer hands

Alexander Gunn says: "I stopped doing some operations altogether when I found that my mortality rate for these was higher than that of other specialists."

His "weakness" was in prostate surgery, even though he was exceptionally good at getting better at some procedures. Urologists, trained in more modern techniques, were getting better results.

Gunn, aged 60, and soon to retire from his post as a consultant general surgeon at the Bangour General Hospital, Broxburn, near Edinburgh, for 25 years, is one of a growing number of surgeons in the district who have made similar discoveries at regular Saturday morning audit meetings, when doctors swap notes and opinions about each other's practices.

Behind closed doors, they discuss hospital deaths and post-operative complications and the "guilty" consultants stand up and account for their actions. Their discussions complement a sophisticated system of data collection which allows both consultants and junior doctors to assess their own and each other's performances in the hope that "peer pressure" will encourage the worst of them to improve.

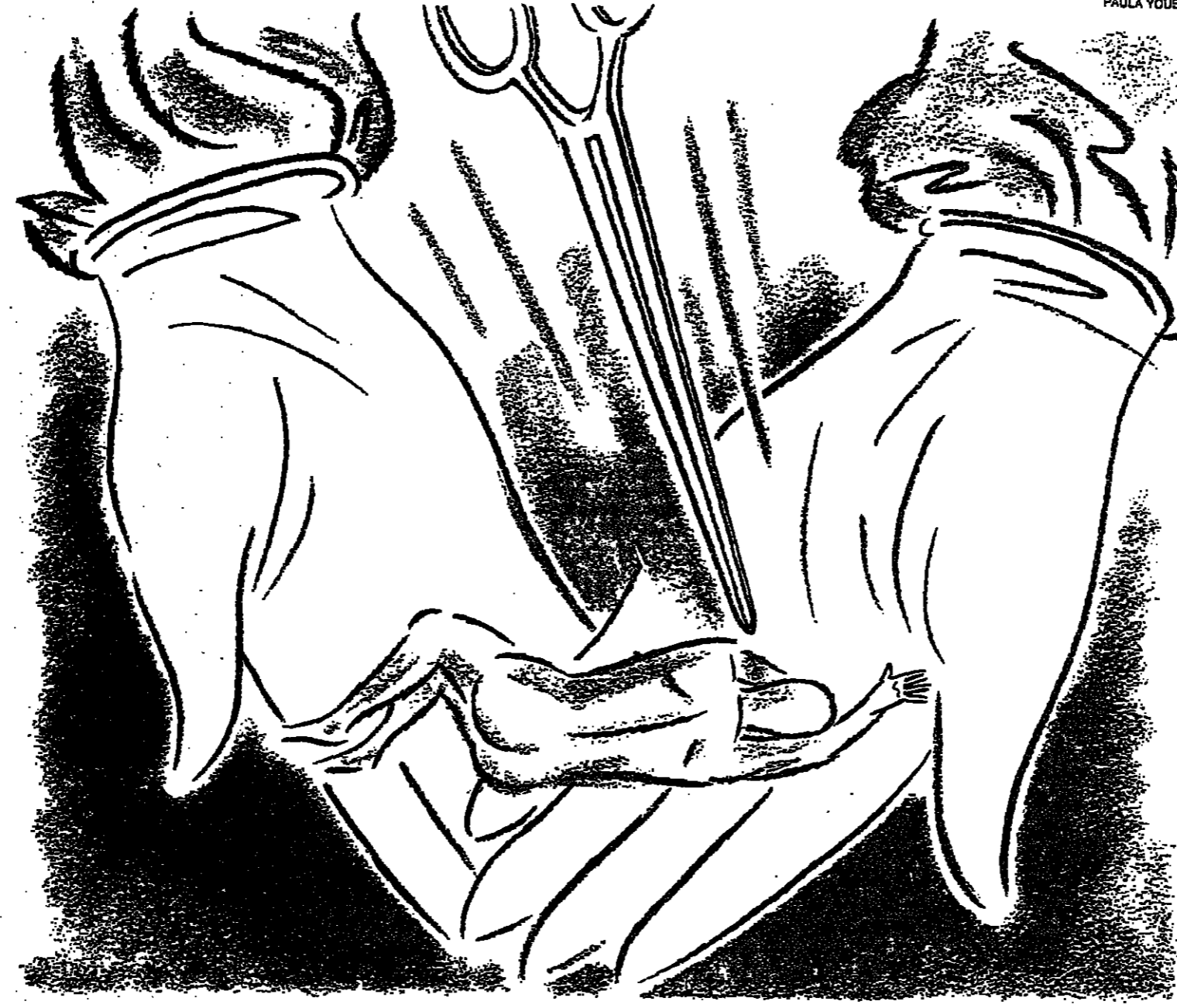
Bangour is one of eight hospitals in the Lothian Health Board area where the pioneering surgical audit encompasses 14 surgical teams, including 35 consultants. It was set up with the co-operation of general surgeons, vascular surgeons and urologists, but other specialists such as cardiologists now attend.

There have already been benefits to patients. The death rate for gall bladder operations throughout the Lothian district is now 0.5 per cent, compared to 2 per cent for Scotland as a whole. And in the last three to four years there have been remarkable improvements in mortality rates for colonic surgery, which have fallen from 20 to 10 per cent. Death rates for some other operations covered by the audit have fallen by at least half, and in some cases by more than five times.

At another Edinburgh hospital one group of consultants found that 80 per cent of their patients died following abdominal aortic aneurysm (ballooning and sometimes rupture of major blood vessels), while only 40 per cent died after being treated by specialist surgeons.

This alarming discovery resulted in a new vascular unit being set up at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, where these operations were done only by three vascular specialists. Average mortality rates immediately dropped to 40 per cent.

For prostate surgery some consultants in Lothian had death rates 10 times higher than others. Those with the highest mortality rates - generally those less experienced - stopped operating the day



the results were uncovered, on their own initiative.

The chairman of the surgical audit committee, Gerald Davies, a consultant general surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, used to do all types of surgery when he arrived there eight years ago after a stint at Guy's Hospital in London. Now vascular surgery is no longer referred to him. If he gets a case, he passes it on to the vascular surgeons. And he admits that he no longer does oesophagectomies - a common complication following the operation - was one in five of all operations, about the national average.

"If you had a tumour, would you go to someone who did one a year or 35 a year?"

But, following an audit meeting he discovered that the thoracic surgeons at the City Hospital, Edinburgh, had no leakage at all. He gave up the operations and now refers all oesophagectomies to the surgeons at the City. "If you had a tumour, would you go to someone who did one a year or someone who does 35 a year?" Davies asks.

He and other surgeons in Edinburgh now argue, on the strength of the audit results, that clinical performance can be improved if surgeons become more specialized and limit themselves to the operations they perform most and therefore best.

The secretary of the audit, Stephen Nixon, a general surgeon at

Western General Hospital, points out that many of the patients would die anyway, because they are gravely ill, or very old and frail. Nevertheless, the Lothian doctors do not dispute that some surgeons are technically better than others.

The audit depends on each consultant filling in a pink form identifying himself, the anaesthetist and the assistant. The forms establish how junior the doctor in each case is, whether the operation is elective or emergency, the diagnosis and the operation performed. Doctors also have to describe the operative findings and techniques used. Consultants or their secretaries tap in the information into their own desktop computers hours after the operation. Similarly, any information on deaths - including those on the operating table - that occur within the hospital are also fed into the computer. At the press of a button on each consultant's desktop terminal, the data bank can show where most deaths occur - both physically and in which group of operations - which diseases are most difficult to operate on successfully, and what people die of.

For example, the Lothian audit showed that most deaths following operations were caused by cardiac respiratory problems. It also indicated that most patients who die do so after emergency operations. These tend to occur in the evenings, and are therefore usually performed by junior doctors. Registrars will generally have much less experience than their bosses.

There is now growing pressure from health ministers for Lothian-type audits elsewhere. They point to recent studies, such as the confidential inquiry into peri-operative deaths (CEPOD) conducted in three regions in England last year by the

Royal College of Surgeons and the Association of Anaesthetists, which indicated widespread differences in mortality rates following surgery. In one district 64 per cent of the deaths after operations were avoidable, compared with only 5.7 per cent in another district in the same region.

Added pressure is coming from health service chiefs, health economists and consumer groups, who argue that consultants should publish their mortality rates, for use by patients as a criterion in their choice of hospital.

Gunn, one of the pioneers of the Edinburgh audit, has been operating a self-audit for 25 years and has no doubt that it has made him a better

"They're scared. They risk their status, their private practice and their jobs"

doctor. "I wanted to know how good or bad I was. All doctors think they are good, but some are more good than others," he says. "Doctors only publish their success and failure rates if they get good results. The rest of us presume in blissful ignorance that we are as good - our heads buried in the sand."

Although the Royal medical colleges are trying to introduce medical audits nationwide, the BMA has been less enthusiastic. Paddy Ross, chairman of the association's consultants committee, says: "The idea of publishing death rates of individual hospitals would be unhelpful and potentially dangerous."

He points out that cases vary widely - for instance some surgeons deal only with life-threatening situations. Patients who were at a high risk - those who smoked, or suffered from emphysema, for example, might find it difficult to compare - might find it difficult.

The surgeons themselves could find they were losing patients if they had poor records, with a consequent loss of private practice and perhaps even the threat of dismissal if the audit figures were released to health service managers. Gunn says: "Doctors are frightened: they risk their status, their private practice and their jobs."

Critics of the audit scheme in Edinburgh, the "silent partners" who fail to show at Saturday meetings, fear that auditing will lead to defensive medicine - doctors will not carry out operations which are likely to be dangerous. They also argue that if information on doctors' mortality rates is publicly available, patients are more likely to try to sue those whose success rates compare badly.

Others say that patients have a right to know. If doctors consistently perform badly, they should be told to "seek a different career", argues the chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities, Julia Cumberland.

At the moment, patients are supposed to be able to choose the consultant they go to on the advice of their GPs. But Cumberland argues that neither the GPs nor patients have any objective information upon which to base that choice. Doctors, she believes, must be prepared to stand up and be counted by their peers, their managers and the public. As Nixon says: "It is only the guilty who have anything to fear."

Breaking the silence

A woman sufferer has written a book on the hidden problem of vaginismus

Even when I was very young," Linda Valins says, "I had a feeling that I wasn't like other women. It was not until I was in my twenties that I found out those feelings were called something, Vaginismus."

Vaginismus is an involuntary spasm of the vaginal muscles which prevents any kind of penetration. For women like Linda it means they cannot use tampons, have internal examinations, experience sexual intercourse. By its very nature it often cruelly combines the misery of a sexual problem with the added grief of childlessness.

Yet it is a problem that is rarely discussed, even though, Valins says, it is far more common than is generally recognized. "Figures published for 1981-82 by the Royal College of General Practitioners showed that approximately 0.7 per cent of women in the UK are estimated to suffer from vaginismus - that's more than 27,000 women."

Despite this, there is little literature about the subject and even when vaginismus is mentioned in self-help books for women, the reader is left with the impression that "a caring doctor or expert" is just around the corner. In reality, Valins says, getting the right kind of help can be a struggle.

For all these reasons she decided to write her own book - and to write it under her own name. "At first I was going to use a pseudonym. I wanted to protect my family, in particular my husband, who has always been so supportive of me. But then I realized it would be a travesty of what the book is all about."

"I know about despair and isolation. Seeing pregnant women and women with children was a continual reminder of my exclusion from a sexually active world where women make love with their partners and bear children together."

"Even a trip to the supermarket would produce intense feelings of envy directed towards the women around me, resulting in a deep depression."

"While I felt ashamed of my angry impulses towards them, this merely reinforced my feelings of self-loathing. When I was at my lowest my childlessness, combined with the envy, anger and guilt, made me feel that my only escape from pain would be to end my life."

Valins says she has since met fellow sufferers who have had children by artificial insemination. "But for them it did not resolve vaginismus at all and it made delivery and pre-natal care very difficult."

Valins, now 36 and living in North London, met her husband-to-be, an architect, when she was 22. They have been married for nine and a half years. Throughout her late teens her fear of lovemaking

was so strong that relationships inevitably ended. "They always assumed my objections were moral," she says.

Her husband was the first man she was able to talk to about her fears, and he tried to reassure her that things would be better once they were married and living in their own home. But they weren't.

"It's a myth that women who suffer from vaginismus have no sex lives, in fact many have a rich sexual repertoire and very few have problems with orgasms. What we fear is penetration, not lovemaking. But it did cause problems between us and towards the end of 1981 I closed down totally. I was afraid of failure, of humiliation. I imposed celibacy really. I used to plead with my husband to find someone else and divorce me. I was much harder on myself than he ever was."

Valins had tried to get professional help, but with disastrous results. "Some doctors just told me to relax and get drunk, others said I should pull myself together. I came to believe for a long time that no one could help me."

But three years after her wedding, she found a doctor who was also an analytical psychotherapist doing part-time sessions at a private Well Woman clinic. His approach of exploring her feelings, fears and fantasies turned out to be the right one for her. She is still having therapy and although her vaginismus has been resolved, refuses to talk about a cure.

Although she clearly favours psychodynamic approaches to the treatment of

vaginismus, rather than behavioural methods (in which therapists view the condition as a learned response, wrongly acquired as a way of coping with certain stressful situations, and one which can therefore be unlearned), Valins outlines all possibilities in her book.

"Just as there is no single cause of vaginismus, so there is no definitive way to treat it. I wanted to include everything so that for other women there would be no element of luck. I wanted them to be able to make an informed choice about the help they should look for and where to find it."

It took her a year to find a publisher prepared to take the book. But she is convinced the struggle was worthwhile. "Anything which helps dispel the silence, ignorance and misinformation surrounding vaginismus has to be."

Lee Rodwell

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Vaginismus: Understanding and Overcoming Blocks to Intercourse, by Linda Valins, is published by Avon Press on July 28 (16.95).

SCIENCE REPORT Movement of molecules

Direct observations of the individual molecules that act together to make muscles work should soon be possible, following an advance made by two Japanese researchers. Until recently, the strength of the protein molecules that make up muscle fibres has had to be guessed from observations of whole fibres, made up of more than a thousand million molecules acting in concert. But Toshio Yanagida and Akiyoshi Kishino of Osaka University, writing in Nature, exploit the very latest techniques in microscopy to watch a few dozen molecules at work.

They have developed an ingenious method which involves a filament of actin - the structural protein in muscle that myosin molecules move against when muscles contract. They attach the filament to a thin, flexible glass needle, using myosin molecules which have been rendered inactive as a glue. The actin filament is stained with a fluorescent compound so it can be seen easily under the microscope. If the free end of the tethered actin filament is captured by active myosin molecules stuck to a flat surface, the force exerted on the filament can be calculated from the extent to which the glass needle bends.

This method reflects a trend in which delicate manipulation and sophisticated use of microscopes are combined to study movement at the molecular scale.

Writing in Nature, Malcolm Irving of King's College, London, says that if such image intensification technology were combined with the mechanical apparatus of the

sort developed by Kishino and Yanagida, the field of molecular movement research would be wide open for exploration. "The stage is now set for measurements of both the force and the motion produced by single motor molecules."

Research along these lines could show how myosin and actin molecules interact during muscle contraction. Researchers are still unsure exactly how this happens - but Kishino and Yanagida offer some tantalizing hints.

Some solutions lie in the structure of myosin itself. Myosin is made of two globular "heads", each attached to a long tail. The tails are coiled round each other, like a pair of intertwined tadpoles. Kishino and Yanagida find that the force exerted by intact myosin molecules is comparable with that of the detached globular heads. This implies that much of the molecular business of contraction happens at the head end of the molecule, while the tails play a supporting, structural role.

The heads link myosin molecules to actin, as well as binding to the small, energy-rich molecules of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) that fuel the progress of myosin molecules along actin filaments.

But how far can one myosin molecule travel along an actin filament powered by a given amount of ATP? Do myosin molecules attach and detach from actin filaments in a cyclic way, or do they shuffle along like trains on a track? The answers could be just around the corner.

Henry Gee

High cost of the cocktail party boast

There is such a close relationship between prosperity and the hysterectomy rate that it has been suggested that the easiest way of estimating the number of hysterectomies in any area is to count the Jaguars standing in the driveways.

A hysterectomy in these districts is discussed with some pride and a frequent boast at coffee mornings is that the surgeon "left her ovaries behind". The idea that thereby her femininity will remain unchanged is a reassuring one for the patient, but in practice it may be a false hope as doctors are becoming increasingly aware that the ovaries they so carefully

spare during surgery may fail post-operatively. An early hysterectomy, and subsequent ovarian failure, has disadvantages, including an increased risk of early cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis, which stem from an earlier menopause than would otherwise have occurred. No surgeon is likely to remove the ovaries of a woman under 40, but after this

Downhill run

Thirty years ago a physician visited a local fete which was being opened by the wife of the colonel of one of the regiments of the Brigade of Guards; the doctor was struck by her slovenly manner, irritability and her indifference to the social niceties which are expected on these occasions. As he knew the local GP well, he suggested to him that as any woman who had these characteristics had to have been a bar to her husband's promotion in an efficient regiment, it might be a good idea to ask a neurologist to see her. The neurologist, a diagnosed meningioma, a benign tumour of the covering of the brain, which was pressing on the frontal lobes. After the tumour, the size of an orange, had been removed the colonel's wife's temperament was soon restored; post-op-

eratively she not only became the life and soul of the ward but commanded it as a benign despot. Mr R.S. Maurice Williams and Mr G. Dunwoody of the Royal Free Hospital described two similar cases in the British Medical Journal, comparatively young people with a previously sound temperament and no history of psychiatric disease who slowly developed progressive personality changes which were ascribed to a variety of causes. Comparatively late in the course of their disease the real reason became apparent; both, like the colonel's wife, had meningiomas pressing on the frontal lobe. In neither case was there such a happy outcome. One, although he was able to return to work and lost most of his symptoms, developed other mild epilepsy; in the other the diagnosis was made so late that he died before he could undergo surgery. The colonel makes a plea that two surgeons make a plea that this diagnosis should always

be considered in cases characterized by unexpected personality changes. These changes are often very subtle initially but progress slowly and unremittingly. The patients, although often described as depressed, are more likely to be careless, apathetic and indifferent. Once suspicions have been aroused, supporting evidence can be obtained by taking a detailed neurological history by special tests, including scans. The diagnosis of what is essentially a benign condition may save the patient's health and life and avoid possibly irreversible damage to their family and social background.

VDU all-clear

The advent of the VDU has transformed the office and destroyed the leisurely old-style life of the City. They cause headaches and

rashes on the cheeks but the important unanswered question has been their effect on pregnancy. Anecdotal evidence has associated their use with an increased chance of having a miscarriage, and some reports have suggested miscarriage rates may even rise to 50 per cent among women who are using the VDU. One of the problems of assessing the risk is that the true miscarriage rates are still unknown and that in any trial the control group tend to dismiss their miscarriages as merely a menstrual irregularity. Recent studies using improved methods of early diagnosis of pregnancy have shown a very much higher miscarriage rate than the usually accepted 15 per cent. A review recently published in the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has given an authoritative view on the relationship between VDUs and miscarriages. This has analysed five large trials in which the numbers of people

studied were big enough to make valid conclusions and where the gynaecological supervision of the control as well as the patients was of a high order. The conclusion of the authors will reassure the many pregnant women who use VDUs: they found no link between their use and miscarriages.

Hepatitis alert

Russell Hartley's illness focused attention on hepatitis; he had hepatitis B complicated by the fortunately rare condition known as fulminant hepatitis, which can lead to acute liver failure. Hepatitis B in a number of patients produces a carrier state which may persist for life and prove a danger to their children or sexual partners. The patients themselves have an increased chance of devel-

oping chronic liver disease, including occasionally cancer of the liver, particularly if the hepatitis was caught early in life. Despite its potentially serious complications the initial attack of hepatitis B is often missed if it is so mild that, if jaundice has occurred, it has not been noticed by the patient or his doctor. Earlier this year Professor Neil McIntyre of the Royal Free Hospital encouraged doctors to test patients for both hepatitis A and B when they have symptoms which could be due to them, even if jaundice is not apparent. As well as complaining of the more obvious symptoms, such as headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, unexplained fever and loss of appetite, the patient may consult his doctor for various skin troubles, including urticaria.

A little known and often missed sign of hepatitis is pain in the joints. This affects up to 20 per cent of patients with it, and in 10 per cent of cases actual arthritis develops.

As Nixon says: "It is only the guilty who have anything to fear."

live
amen
rmenia
ontinua
viet
The advertisement strip on the far left of the page contains several fragments of text, likely from an adjacent page or a sidebar. The visible words include 'live', 'amen', 'rmenia', 'ontinua', and 'viet'. These appear to be parts of larger words or phrases, possibly related to a travel or news advertisement.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

JUDGING ABUSE

The report of Lord Justice Butler-Sloss is a measured description of the many miserable events in the county of Cleveland last year. For the parents who suffered so much from the misdiagnosis of themselves as child-abusers it will be much too measured. They will want justice. They will want sackings. Few outsiders will find it in themselves to criticize the parents' sense of anger — and all legal remedies remain open to them.

No public official comes wholly unscathed out of the report, however. Mr Michael Bishop, the Director of Social Services, is pronounced to have been too passive in his management of colleagues; his abuse adviser, Mrs Sue Richardson, too active. Mr Christopher Payne, the Cleveland Chief Constable, will surely not read this account of his part with any satisfaction, nor Dr Alastair Irvine, the police surgeon.

As for the paediatricians at the centre of the storm, Drs Higgs and Wyatt, while they are exonerated of the more extreme charges against them and their diagnostic techniques, both are revealed as over-enthusiastic, misguided, and betraying a tunnel vision terrifyingly inappropriate for a liberal profession.

The extravagant approach of the local MP, Mr Stuart Bell, is criticized. There is distaste too for some of the more sweeping and loosely substantiated assertions of the legal profession. Indeed hardly anyone escapes the charge of jumping to conclusions.

It is the contention of the judge that in such circumstances, professionals and public alike ought to be modest. She emphasizes the "boundaries of present knowledge and the possibilities of the unknown". She clearly hopes that her suggestions for legal and administrative reform will push those boundaries further.

Pressing charges should not be the prime outcome of this report — even though it will clearly be a key document in any future consideration of the general and specific issues which it covers. The judge's work is more practical, more directed to the future.

It sheds light on a a territory of domestic sexual violence and abuse that has long been

dark — even though its existence was known. It shows the need for increased responsibility by those who are appointed to protect children and enforce the law. The judge performs a signal service by her reminder that these are not issues to be sloughed off on to social workers. They are ones which necessarily and rightly concern police officers, magistrates, and the health services too.

The Butler-Sloss report stands in a tradition of judicial investigation whose primary function is to reach conclusions that public policy-makers can use at once. The Government yesterday indicated that the tradition holds: Mr Tony Newton promised action on several fronts.

He must now, find time in the next Parliament for the long promised reform of the child protection law laid out in the 1987 White Paper. His Office of Child Protection is a good idea. If only Mr Bishop had been able to refer his burden of referrals of suspected abuse upwards. The easier passing of ideas between one local authority and another should help too.

It is easy to complain that the £7 million being provided by the Government for extra training for social workers to take on board some of the lessons of Cleveland is insufficient. Mr Newton's acceptance only a month ago of the case for extending social work training by a full year — only to reject it at once on cost grounds — hangs over his head at this point.

But as important as money and time is the content of the training that is given. Tunnel vision of the kind revealed at Cleveland is not prevented by public spending alone. Indeed, it can be caused by it.

The undramatic response along the lines drawn yesterday by the minister may be exactly what is now required. The principal lesson from Cleveland concerns not just substantive knowledge about diagnosis and communication between professionals but also the process by which it should be acquired. After the drama, it will do only good if practical experience can be built up in "a measured way". Those who have suffered injustice and hurt in Cleveland have also helped the process of slowly educating us all.

HARD ROAD FROM THE SYNOD

The realization has come to the General Synod of the Church of England — rather late in the day perhaps — that the anguish of some of its members likely to result from the ordination of women to the priesthood cannot be prevented. The decisions taken at the conclusion of the Synod's debates on Wednesday were made in the full knowledge that there are clergy who will feel it necessary in due course to resign their livings as a result, and that others who stay will have to live in a perpetual state of alienation.

Earlier attempts to devise arrangements which would ensure that the process would be painless, even to the extent of peacefully dividing the Church into two amicable halves, can now be seen with a better perspective as the well-meant evasions they always were. The Church, in other words, must be prepared to suffer some damage to itself and its members. The General Synod now knows and accepts this uncomfortable but inevitable truth.

The Church of England was born out of intense and sometimes bloody religious turbulence. Dispute and division are no strangers to its past. It has survived far worse trouble than that now ahead, and been strengthened by it. The assumption has grown in recent softer years that Anglican affairs should be conducted according to the principle that the ultimate sin is to hurt another churchman's feelings. There is no warrant in church history for that.

The characteristically Anglican balance of diverse opinion under the umbrella of comprehensiveness has been treated in the modern age like some unstable boat that should not be rocked if the Church is to hold together. This has taken Anglican Christianity into stagnant water, and given a false impression of an essentially timid faith, coloured more by qualification than conviction.

Instead, the Church must find the courage to act in a way which will cause personal distress to those of its members who cannot travel with it in the direction chosen. Those who threaten or blackmail it must now realise that further pressure of that sort has been discounted in advance. They have had their say.

The process of revising and approving the legislation for women priests, now begun, cannot be dominated by the desire to please everyone, if the resultant measure is to be for the good of the Church. Once the ordination of women becomes lawful in the Church of England, if it ever does, there will unfortunately be no place in it for those who are not prepared to adjust accordingly. The draft measure to which the Synod gave its general approval this week still bears too much

evidence of the earlier phase of this debate, when there was a general hope of being able to accommodate all possible points of view.

In particular, bishops who are not in favour of women priests should not be allowed — as the draft legislation now envisages — to draw boundaries round their territory, thereby creating ecclesiastical "no-go areas" for women who are properly and lawfully ordained clergy of the Church. Numerous times in the past churchmen, including bishops, who have not been prepared to conform have had to leave; and if it comes to that again, the principle should still hold.

In the shorthand of the Synod, this is what has become known as the "single clause" option: a measure containing nothing but a brief declaration that throughout the constitution of the Church of England, wherever it says "man" it should in future be deemed to mean "man or woman". In due course, that would have the same effect as the multiple clause measure the Synod has agreed to in principle, once the present generation of dissenting clergy has worked its way through the interim "conscience clauses" arrangements.

But the result of this meanwhile would be to create for years an open wound in the body of the Church, and to suffer the damage as it festers. The hard choice has to be made between harm to the Church and harm to individuals; and even those individuals themselves should be able to recognize that the Church must come first.

Those who guide the Church of England through the difficult five years ahead — and they will almost inevitably include a new Archbishop of Canterbury — would do well not to regard this task too negatively. The adaptation to the new place of women in society, which the Synod wishes to see carried through into the Church's ministry, is consistent with that Anglican tradition which has always been prepared to modify its practice, where necessary, to meet contemporary needs and insights.

The Church of England has recently shown anxious signs of uncertainty as to the real foundations of Anglican belief. It is not too much to hope that those foundations will be made clearer in the course of the controversy over women's ordination, and that Anglicans therefore will gain a stronger sense of what unites them and urges them on together. That would be an immense benefit to the coherence of Anglicanism itself, and an effective answer to the sceptics, who accuse it of believing in everything and nothing.

Cathedral glass

From Mr Patrick Reyniens
Sir, With some 35 years' experience behind me in actually manipulating light by means of glass, stained or otherwise, I think Mr David Peace (June 21) is in the right about the glass of Ely Cathedral Lady Chapel.

Ely might pay a visit to Salisbury, so as to study modern blunders in lighting. There the removal of the two Burgess restoration windows on the chapter-house results in a catastrophic white light floods in.

Kiln-distortion, to which Mr Burman and the Dean refer (June 25), is an irrelevance compared with the exact tonality and trace of colour of the glass. The actual colour of the glass is a little too dark, admittedly, but it would be far worse to remove it. Yours sincerely, PATRICK REYNIENS, Ilford Bridges Farm, Close Stockinch, Buxton, Somerset.

Rent-a-Rubens?

From the Chairman of Harrop Ltd
Sir, What is the similarity between tickets for Wimbledon and the art market? In both cases demand has risen, but the supply (of seats, or of Old Masters) cannot be increased.

The difference is that the supply of Old Masters diminishes annually, as the "floating" stock is bought up, mostly by museums. So long, therefore, as demand stays the same the price of established art must rise continually. Last week, for instance, we have seen (report, June 29) that £5 million buys about 40 per cent of a Monet.

A system where more and more money is required to buy less and less is a very bad one. How about a rent-a-Rubens, instead of a buying system? Museums could rent or hire paintings for, say, 5 per cent per annum of their assumed value, for a year or less, as they pleased.

There could be owning museums, or renting museums, or those which did a bit of both. Renting museums would use the interest on their capital for leasing. Owning museums could boost their revenue and "liberate" the stock which they do not have space to exhibit. Users of either would benefit from the systematic circulation of pictures. Individuals might be able to afford pictures, if they could also obtain revenue from them.

All this is quite different from the present system of sporadic lending for exhibitions by owners. For rich or poor museums, is this not a more effective use of (mostly taxpayers') money, and a possible solution to the present self-reinforcing system?

Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS BERRY, Chairman, Harrop Ltd, 19-23 Ludgate Hill, EC4, July 4.

Wary eye on 'greenhouse effect'

From the Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

Sir, Your editorial "In glass houses" (July 2) is timely. Whether your vision of "mass production of electricity by oil and coal-burning power stations will be unsustainable in decades to come" proves as apocalyptic as you infer, depends, I submit, predominantly on how profitably we choose to use any energy once we have generated it.

This is an issue your editorial altogether fails to address, although it is surely the key to the entire matter. But perhaps the omission is not altogether surprising. Traditionally, responsibility for environmental pollution and matters of energy policy have been handled by completely different ministers and civil servants, with wholly separate remits.

Certainly for some years now the Department of Energy has been running a laudable campaign under the "Get more for your money" slogan, intended to encourage consumers to link their consumption of fuel with the financial cost to them, either as individuals or corporate entities. Indeed, the Prime Minister herself has stressed the potential to reduce energy wastage by some £7 billion each year. It remains the Government's objective to take us from down the bottom of the league to become the "most energy-efficient nation in Europe".

Nowhere, however, within that financial equation does the issue arise of the environmental damage caused by the emission of invisible gases from power stations. The reason is simple, and is summed up in the recently published report on air pollution of the all-party House of Commons Environment Committee.

If the world wants light, heat and energy in constant and increasing supply, the choice might resolve itself into one between a source which is deliberately and constantly poisoning the planet, and one whose misadventure would have catastrophic global results. ... An alternative would be energy generation and the reduction of demand. But it is not for our committee to pronounce upon questions of energy policy (my emphasis).

Doubtless were the environment committee's sister committee shadowing the Department of Energy to attempt to consider the ramifications of this issue, they too would soon find themselves straying across departmental demarcation lines.

It was E. M. Forster who prefaced his finest book with the simple phrase "only connect". Those of us living in this glass-house you describe can only hope that one day our administrators will manage to do so. Let us hope the day will come soon.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW WARREN, Director, Association for the Conservation of Energy, 9 Sherlock Mews, W1.

Windsor papers

From Mr Hugo Vickers
Sir, At last we are told by Mr Bloch (July 4) that a document exists authorising Maître Blum to publish the papers and correspondence of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. I wonder if scholars will be allowed to see it? Clearly the Duke is absolved from any part in this posthumous publication since the document is evidently dated March 17, 1975 (nearly three years after his death). Likewise the Duchess, who was by then a victim of arterio-sclerosis. I fear that the blame must rest with Maître Blum for appointing Mr Bloch to release these letters to the press.

Yours faithfully, HUGO VICKERS, 62 Latham Gardens, W8, July 4.

Knotty problem

From Mr Geoffrey Quinn
Sir, As the principal supplier of regimental and club ties in the country we feel we are best qualified to offer an explanation to Mr J. L. Stanley (June 30).

The American tie industry cut their ties with the pattern of the cloth face down, which results in the stripes running from high right to low left.

Whereas, in Europe and Great Britain, we prefer to see the design we are cutting (face-up), resulting in a high left to low right stripe.

As with every rule there are exceptions. RAF and Royal Marines are but two of many official ties which are cut the so-called "American way". Yours faithfully, GEOFFREY QUINN, Director, T. M. Lewin & Sons Ltd, 106 Jermyn Street, SW1, July 1.

Romania's minorities

From Judith Lady Listowel
Sir, May I add a few words to your East European Correspondent's reports (June 28, 29) on the treatment of ethnic minorities in Romania?

Before the bulldozing of 8,000 of Romania's 13,000 villages began, conditions for the ethnic minorities were already very difficult. The two million Hungarian minority has only eight secondary schools, each with a Romanian director and with Romanians teaching history, presenting the past very differently from the Cambridge History.

The ancient university of Kolozsvár-Ciuj-Napoca was forcibly "Romanianized" in 1964 in a

From the Earl of Cranbrook
Sir, Apart from the fact that it may be taller and by inference may comprise a greater volume of timber per unit area (and the areas are very large), I believe there is no a priori reason why tropical forest should function more effectively as a sink for carbon dioxide than forest at other latitudes.

As a marginal expedient to slow the rise in atmospheric CO₂, your leader of July 2 could usefully have urged preservation and replenishment of all forests, worldwide, including the extensive stands of the north temperate zone.

In the longer term, of course, a mature forest merely recycles carbon, in balance neither contributing to nor abstracting from the net atmospheric load. While in the tropics rapid decay and recycling is typical, soils under temperate forests tend to accumulate a layer of undecomposed organic litter. This feature may enhance the overall value of temperate forests as a global carbon store. Yours faithfully, CRANBROOK, House of Lords, July 3.

From Mr Neil Garrard
Sir, Saturday's leading article on the "greenhouse effect" blames the "overwhelming nature of their implications" for the general indifference to the "cataclysmic predictions". It seems the writer suffers from the same mental block.

If carbon dioxide created by burning fossil fuels is the principal cause of the greenhouse effect and if, at a cost of halving output, we can eliminate carbon dioxide from this source, then, other than in the mind of a myopic optimist, the prospect is not "hopelessly un-economic". Yours faithfully, NEIL GARRARD, 74 St James's Street, SW1, July 4.

From Dr G. C. L. Bertram
Sir, Your excellent leader, "In glass houses", admirably deals with the "greenhouse effect" and its promotion by polluting gases from several sources. But surely you neglect the demographic factor.

There is a direct linkage of all pollutant use with the number of people available to pollute. The doubling of world population since the War (now at five thousand million and still escalating), results likewise in more than doubling the extent of pollution. And this is the more so if the Third World advances (as we strive to help) towards Western standards of energy use and other consumption.

There lies the fundamental problem. Yours faithfully, G. C. L. BERTRAM, St John's College, Cambridge, July 3.

Fire over England

From Professor Claudio Veliz
Sir, Whoever informed your readers (report, June 4) that the beacons that will be set alight on July 19 will form "the largest beacon chain since the Armada" was in error. That honour most certainly belongs to the Australian bicentennial chain of 556 beacons that spanned over 15,000 kilometres in the 14 hours between sunset and sunrise on June 18 and 19 of this year.

The first beacon was set alight in Botany Bay by the Governor General of Australia, Sir Ninian Stephen, just as the sun disappeared in the West on Saturday, June 18. When that beacon was sighted from the second one, about 30 kilometres to the south, it went up in flames, and then the third, and the fourth, and so on down the coast of New South Wales and across the Furneaux group of islands to Tasmania, and then back to the mainland. The final beacon was fired by Mr Greiner, Premier of New South Wales on the northern shore of Botany Bay, three minutes before the sun rose again over the Pacific.

Almost two million people participated in this memorable and enjoyable celebration of the Australian bicentenary. Few of them will fail to wish the English beacons well on July 19, and fewer will fail to notice that while lighting 460 beacons across England is a commendable and sporting feat, it does fall short of the Australian score of 556.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, CLAUDIO VELIZ, La Trobe University, Department of Sociology, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia 3083, June 28.

So unlawful that three Hungarian communists committed suicide in shame over it. At present only 7 per cent of the students can be Hungarians, as the two million Hungarians are said to form 7 per cent of the total population.

No Hungarian without at least a Romanian Christian name can obtain employment. All Hungarian towns and villages have been given Romanian names and only these can be used. The word Transylvania is also banned.

Among the 40,000 Transylvanian refugees in Hungary there are a number of Romanians, who are treated exactly like the Hungarians, who fled because of the poverty and hunger in their country. People have to get up at 4

Egyptian ruins in Kensington, W14

From Mr Conrad Jameson
Sir, Sir John Sainsbury, whose family is funding the National Gallery extension designed by Robert Venturi, the founding father of architectural post-modernism, has demanded a massive pruning-back of Ian Pollard's neo-Egyptian Homebase store in W14 (report, June 30).

Is it an accident that Pollard, who also designed the much-praised post-modern Observer building in Battersea, should have his Kensington extravaganza called vulgar, even by the *Architects' Journal*? Or is it that early partisans of post-modern architecture are coming to realize that the theatrical designs that looked so beguiling at first are only variants of those "look-at-me" commercial show-stoppers exploited by the Best stores in the States, where a corner of a building is made to look as if knocked away by a bulldozer or a front elevation is suspended in space like a roll-back garage door stuck in mid-passage?

We can't yet be sure of the answer. But now at least there is hope. Yours faithfully, CONRAD JAMESON (Director, Jameson Design Limited), 4 Sydney Place, SW7, July 3.

From Mr Bernard Kaukas
Sir, The battered defenders of the modern movement in architecture have had to take an awful lot of stick in recent times from the triumphal begotters of historical pastiche. It was interesting, therefore, to read your report of 30ft-high Egyptian columns being demolished in Kensington when they are quite clearly Roman Corinthian.

The classical rolled-steel joist spanning two of the columns is an interesting example of modern neo-classical design which has no understanding of the fundamental

Secrets law

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information
Sir, Your leader of June 30 describes Mr Hurd's plans to reform the Official Secrets Act as "a sturdy contribution to a liberal tradition". They are not.

Nothing in the Government's White Paper will reduce official secrecy in the slightest. The purpose is to restructure the penalties for those who breach secrecy rules. But no controls will be relaxed to the point of making available any information which is not available now.

Broad new categories of offence for which there is no defence are to be created. For example, a newspaper may face prosecution under the new Act for reporting Whitehall leaks of confidential EEC plans to force Britain to increase VAT, comply with a pollution directive, or abandon consumer protection proposals.

The Government's rejection of any public interest defence means that those revealing gross negligence or misconduct may find themselves in gaol. A jury would not be free to consider the possible benefits of a disclosure which revealed that inadequate defence equipment had been supplied by a corrupt contractor, or that terrorist offences are being ignored for reasons of political expediency; or that organisms from a biological warfare plant that does not officially exist are spreading through the population.

There is a balance to be struck between the protection of secrets and the public interest in open-

In praise of song

From Miss E. M. Lyon
Sir, When I was at school, in addition to singing and sight-reading lessons, plus choir practice, we were taught a different national song every day in the 10 minutes after assembly (or "prayers" in those days). This not only provided a great service of good tunes from all over the British Isles, but has enabled me, at least, to recognize how much this heritage has influenced British composers of all kinds of music.

None of my piano pupils seem to know any of their own national songs, let alone any from other regions; some don't even know the National Anthem.

Singing is a splendid way of expressing any kind of emotion and of exorcizing anger and frustration. Perhaps if all football fans learnt to sing like the Welsh Rugby crowds they would not become hoologans.

Choral singing is the most satisfying occupation of all, and should surely be a "core" subject in schools. Yours sincerely, BARBARA LYON, Pant Isaf, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Gwynedd, July 2.

or 5 a.m. and queue for getting at least their rations: one egg per head per week; meat of any kind is seldom available; potatoes are sold per piece, not per weight, and are very expensive.

The paragraphs protecting the ethnic minorities in the 1919 peace treaty were considered unnecessary by the 1945 Potsdam peace conference in view of the socialist world created at Yalta. The Helsinki Final Act made up for this by laying down necessary rules. The Ceausescu regime is breaking all of these. What is happening in Romania is cultural as well as ethnic genocide.

Yours etc, JUDITH LISTOWEL, 9 Halsey Street, SW3, June 29.

limitations of natural stone lintels. Yours, with deep respect to Vitruvius, BERNARD KAUKAS, 13 Lynwood Road, Ealing, W5.

From Dr R. G. Garnett
Sir, I cannot see any justification for the furor over Sainsbury's new edifice. Architecture has always attempted to express convictions and current beliefs. Euston Arch was designed to convince the public to travel at ungodly speed, and town-hall gothic and classic bank parlours added respectability, power, and security for our votes and funds.

Our present consumer society accepts that churches and supermarkets are interchangeable in our worship of consumer sovereignty. Yours faithfully, R. GARNETT, Hope Cottage, Eaton Ford Green, Saint Neots, Cambridgeshire, June 30.

From Mr Richard Birchall
Sir, Sir John Sainsbury's modification of Mr Ian Pollard's inspired design leaves Kensington a poorer place.

There is a "Home for Fallen Buildings". It is called Portmeiron and is in North Wales. Would Sir John demolish that? Yours, RICHARD BIRCHALL, 2 Bedford Gardens, W8, July 1.

From Mrs Virginia Osborne
Sir, What a pity Messrs Sainsbury didn't decide to demolish their pillars in time to send them along the road to Earls Court, where they would have come in very handy on the set for *Aida*. Yours, VIRGINIA OSBORNE, 12 Forbes Road, Rosyth, Fife, July 1.

ness. The White Paper goes nowhere near it. Yours sincerely, MAURICE FRANKEL, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information, 3 Endsleigh Street, WC1, July 4.

From Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker
Sir, Having been specially employed for most of the years from 1935 to 1945, in peace (sic) and in war, abroad and at home, I recall three considerations which affected actions.

First, the then accepted system worked relatively well, with certain conventions which allowed information to be passed to responsible individuals regardless of party politics.

Second, many actions were taken in and through neutral as well as potentially-enemy countries. These had clearly to be kept secret for all time. If things went wrong, the individual responsible paid the price, sometimes with his life, and the lives of others.

Third, on some occasions I was offered substantial sums to give accounts of certain activities. Years later, with sympathetic help and clearance from the authorities concerned, I produced two books. Not surprisingly, there was little interest in publishing or even reviewing these books, as the secrets were by then cold, and not useable for sensation or personal gain.

I am, etc, DOUGLAS DODDS-PARKER, North Court, Great Peter Street, SW1, July 4.

Geometric change

From Mr Andrew Ashton
Sir, I read with interest the letter from Mr Colin Dixon (July 4) concerning the spelling of isosceles. He counted 29 different spellings in marking 100 examination scripts.

It reminded me of an excellent mnemonic, that would have been of use to his candidates. I learnt it in my school days at Newcastle Royal Grammar School and have used it ever since: "I saw our Shepards climb Everest last Easter Sunday".

I wonder how many versions of the word "parallel" Mr Dixon found.

Yours sincerely, ANDREW ASHTON, University College, Oxford, July 4.

From Mrs Anne Mathews
Sir, Mathematics pupils have to be taught the meaning of the word "isoeles" before they can use it as a teacher explains that "iso" comes from "isos", Greek for "equal", and "sceles" from "skelos", Greek for "leg", surely the pupils will have a better chance of remembering both meaning and spelling. They will also realise that there is both interest and practicality in knowing a little Greek.

Yours sincerely, ANNE MATHEWS, 18 Grassmere Road, Purley, Surrey, July 2.

The right spirit

From Sir Robert Sanders
Sir, Mrs Randle's letter ("Beware wild ranunculus", July 2) reminded me of a notice I recently saw at Etdour distillery near Pitlochry. It stood beside a small reservoir located in the grounds and read, "DANGER, WATER". Rather neat, I thought. Yours faithfully, ROBERT SANDERS, Greystones Lodge, Brioch Terrace, Crieff, Perthshire, July 2.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 6: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Heathrow Airport...

KENSINGTON PALACE July 6: The Prince of Wales received the Prime Minister at St James's Palace this morning...

The Royal Show Rural homes scheme 'a joke'

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent



The Princess of Wales, who braved fierce rainstorms and mud, touring the Royal Show at Stoneleigh yesterday.

Government plans to encourage the building of more low cost rural housing were described yesterday as "just a joke" by David Clark, Labour's spokesman on agriculture...

Starting over 1,000, the Reserve team owned by Messrs Baine... Sheep in the field...

Meanwhile, Charolais cattle romped off with the beef trophy for the third consecutive year...

OBITUARY PROF G. S. GRAHAM

Historian of the Empire

Professor Gerald S. Graham, who died on July 5, aged 85, was Rhodes Professor of Imperial History at King's College London from 1949 to 1970...

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon A.A.J. Monson and Miss E.C. Wheeler-Bennett... Mr M.W. Peaberton and Miss C.D. Wrathall...

Service luncheon

Woodroffe's Colonel Sir Geoffrey Errington presided at the tenth anniversary luncheon of Woodroffe's held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel...

Marriages

Mr J. Dickinson and Miss J. Wallace... Mr Gerald Micklem...

Prince to Denmark

The Prince of Wales will attend a performance by the Austrian Chamber Orchestra as part of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Kiel, West Germany...

Reception

The Chairman and Governors of Merchant Taylors' Schools held a reception at Merchant Taylors' Girls School, Crosby to mark their centenary on Wednesday, July 6, 1988...

Memorial service

Wykehamist Golf Club with Mr P E Wignall-Grove of the Golf Club...

Birthdays today

Baroness Airey of Abingdon, 69; The Earl of Ancrum, 43; Sir John G.N. Brown, publisher, 72...

MR GETHYN HEWAN

Mr Gethyn Hewan, one of the outstanding small-school headmasters of his generation, died on July 1, aged 71...

THE REV DOUGLAS HICKS

The Rev Douglas Henry Hicks, a former President and General Superintendent of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, died in Bristol on July 2 at the age of 88...

GABE DELL

Gabe Dell, one of Hollywood's "Dead End Kids" of the 1930s and 1940s, died on July 3, aged 68...

Institution of Mechanical Engineers

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers is pleased to announce that the following have been admitted to the class of Fellow and are permitted to use the designation FIMechE...

Eastern eyes on the market

If English taste in art is dry and literary, its American counterpart is large and loud. But what of the Japanese, currently storming the Western art market after a successful debut in December 1986?

Advertisement for artfile featuring a portrait of Sarah Jane Checkland and text about Japanese art market trends.

Advertisement for Bank of Wales Base Rate, announcing an increase from 9.5% to 10% with effect from 4th July 1988.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

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FRANK & ANNE - On July 7th 1988 in Salisbury Cathedral...

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PUBLIC NOTICES POTATO MARKETING BOARD ELECTIONS OF SPECIAL AND CERTAIN DISTRICT MEMBERS, 1988

THE ARTS

Tongues in cheek

The Games of '48 (Thames) were popularly known as The Ration Book Olympics, and the achievement of the host nation, Britain, lay not in winning medals but in staging the contest at all.

The competitors — from the "amazing Amazon from Amsterdam" Fanny Blankers-Koen to the future cinematic Oddjob of bowler-hat fame — reached Wembley Stadium by tube from their "villages" in various RAF stations, changed in and out of their tops in tents and enjoyed fortifying doses of Horlicks and Ovaltine. The word "superstar" had yet to be coined.

Peeping over the hurdles of decades through a rosy telescope, this documentary identified the first post-war Olympics as the last gasp of the Corinthian spirit on the world's sporting stage. The proposition was easy enough to illustrate with footage of the British contingent undergoing jolly training at Butlins, Clacton, and equally easy to refute with a Tatesque contretemps between bicyclists in Windsor Great Park.

How far the ideal of selfless athletic competition may be seen as a sublimation of the bellicose impulse was an intellectual field-

TELEVISION

event for which Brian Moore declined to enter.

Tut-tutting over latter-day commercialism and drag-taking, he was preoccupied with his own professional wrestling bout with his native tongue. Born "Bridish" a sight more than "fordy" years ago, he can remember food rationing — just as, when commenting on football, he can spot a goal kick even when not contrasting it with a goalpost.

The false emphasis endemic in television (and in Westminster, as it is now known) is complemented in such programmes as *Wideworld* (BBC2) by a meaningless voice-over which saves viewers from thinking up their own puns while peering over the fact that it has very little information to impart, let alone thought.

A report on camel racing in Dubai's Empty Quarter got hand-somely stuck in the received idea that absolutely everything to do with camels is in itself funny. Camel swimming pools, camel vets, camel crossings on main roads in "many-towered Camelot". True to tabloid-caption form, this viewer got the hump.

Martin Cropper

The old eternal triangle

CINEMA

Genesis (PG)
Renoir

Starlight Hotel (PG)
Cannon Tottenham
Court Road

Saigon (18)
Leicester Square
Theatre

Sign o' the Times
(15)
Dominion

It Couldn't Happen
Here (15)
Cannon Oxford Street

The Naked Cell (18)
Cannon Piccadilly



Weaving a tragic web: Om Puri and Shabana Azmi, who portrays a woman, loved by two men, emerging from a cocoon of desolation

Satyajit Ray is such a giant international figure that he tends to dwarf his fellow Indian directors in the minds of Western audiences. But there are other giants swimming against the commercial tidal wave, and one of them is Minal Sen.

Where Ray's films investigate Indian society through personal relationships, Sen waves the flag of political commitment, and tells biting tales of underdogs and outsiders. In recent years, though, his polemics have softened; Genesis, shown at Cannes in 1986, makes its points quietly, through the form of a simple parable.

A weaver (Om Puri) and a farmer (Naseeruddin Shah) throw off their master's yoke, and try self-sufficiency in a ruined village. The land has been ravaged by drought, yet the two make a start producing cloth and crops, helped by a trader who rides in with supplies. Enter a woman (Shabana Azmi), fleeing from a flood. Soon there's the tinkling of the old romantic triangle, but behind the jealousies hides the ocre of Capitalism. "To dream," says the weaver in a pivotal moment, "you

don't need sleep — you need money." The trader is on hand to fuel the conflicts, and the little Eden crumbles.

Stripped to its bare bones, the film might not sound too nourishing. But Sen is a wizard at conjuring subtle moods from a few figures in a landscape, and the unruffled pace is entirely justified by the shifting human relationships. Shabana Azmi — one of India's most accomplished young actresses — gracefully portrays the woman emerging from a cocoon of desolation, but the main drama rests with the men. Technically speaking, Genesis is one of Sen's most polished pieces, and marks his entry into the field of international co-production: France, Belgium and Switzerland all chipped in, not to mention our own Channel 4.

Cinema history has been clogged with films about mismatched runaways building a bond while the police dog their tails. But Starlight Hotel, a New Zealand film, manages to ring a few changes on the genre. The novel setting — New Zealand's South Island during the Great Depression — helps enormously.

A whiff of the vintage car museum hangs over some of the town scenes, but there is nothing contrived about the New Zealand sky, glancing down on the wide open spaces and our fugitive friends: a man who assaulted a bailiff, and a young girl in search of her father.

As in his first feature *The Scarrows*, the director Sam Pillsbury is overly fond of artful compositions and the fish-eye camera lens, yet he certainly knows how to handle actors and push along a story. Greer Robson never lets the girl become saccharine, and Peter Phelps smoulders with banked-down fire as the hard-headed fugitive with a social conscience.

Saigon — originally called *Off Limits* — grafts the Vietnam war on to the usual story about plainclothes cops on a hostile murder case. It is not a pretty transplant. If you shook out the foul language, the script would be in tatters, and the plot is mediocre. Square-jawed Willem Dafoe and Gregory Hines play two manly United States Army cops investigating the murder of prostitutes; evidence points to a high-ranking American officer.

A little daft romance is hurried into the stew with a Catholic nun who ministers in the strip-joint combat zone. Bangkok provided locations, while the Royal Thai Army laid on manpower and weapons, but the spiritual home of this lurid pot-boiler is the Hollywood backlot 30 years ago.

Once upon a time, you knew where you were when music performers crossed over into film: Glenn Miller and Jascha Heifetz strutted their stuff in isolated sequences, and let the young juveniles carry the plot. Now they often try to carry the whole show.

The credits declare that *Sign o' the Times*, a concert film, is directed by the rock star Prince — though how much direction can a man do when he is also on stage singing, preening, jiggerbugging, and gyrating on all fours? Unlike the disastrous *Under the Cherry Moon*, the film at least shows Prince in his element, flamboyantly performing 13 songs before a vast auditorium of youngsters in Rotterdam. But it would take a film of much greater variety to convert the unbeliever to Prince's cause.

It Couldn't Happen Here is a British pop extravaganza, made for EMI Records, featuring the Pet Shop Boys (Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe). As if to make up for their bland music, the director Jack Bond, a maverick maker of TV documentaries with a penchant for the grotesque, drags them through a wearying kaleidoscope of British life seen through a crazy mirror.

The two boys, one in evening wear, the other leather-jacketed, wander dumbly through the mêlée.

With its pop video ambience, *It Couldn't Happen Here* at least aims for a definite audience, but who are the spectators for *The Naked Cell*? This miserable British production — a first feature from commercials director John Crome — attempts to explore the mind of a sex-obsessed young woman incarcerated in a mental hospital. Crome's chosen style, long takes, lewd monologues, disconnected scenes, leaves his young performer Vicky Jeffrey cruelly exposed, and robs the material of any resonance.

Geoff Brown

Rich and rare fare

ROCK

Was (Not Was)
Hammersmith Odeon

As the contradictory name of the group suggests, nothing is especially straightforward in the world of the so-called "brothers" Don and David Was. The couple, who with their hook-noses and frizzy hair look like a matching pair of cartoon hippy revivalists, grew up as friends during the Sixties in Detroit, the sweet soul sounds of Motown, the raucous pre-punk rock of the MC5 and the counter-culture values of Frank Zappa.

On stage the duo stationed themselves at half-back position — Don playing bass, David on flute and harmonica — adopting a relatively modest role in the performance of the 11-piece rock 'n' soul revue band which they have fashioned according to their unique vision.

The front line was dominated by the sweet and sour combination of the joint lead vocalists Sir Harry Bowens (dinner jacket, bow-tie, smooth delivery) and Sweet Pea Atkinson (gangster hat, shades, roughened voice), while sundry other players — horns, guitar, voices — weaved about the stage passing the baton in ceaselessly arresting patterns of sound and movement.

In describing a performance which ranged from the rugged, rocky R'n'B of "Knocked Down Made Small" to a superb, spit-tongling recreation of the Temptations' "Papa Was A Rolling Stone", one can scarcely do justice to the embarrassment of musical and visual riches on offer. The level of musicianship was on a par with the best, recalling that of Steely Dan on the new single "Anything Can Happen". When Curt Smith of Tears For Fears joined them to sing "Everybody Wants To Rule The World", the band played it perfectly with an air of breezy familiarity.

While much of the group's appeal resides in its unclassifiable style and in its intriguing, often confusing "anti-commercial" image, it seems a cruel irony that what is so manifestly an enjoyable and accessible show should, so far, have failed to reach a much wider audience.

David Sinclair

Tender charm

Charles Trenet has returned to London after 10 years, Euan Cameron reports



Thrilling: Charles Trenet singing old favourites at the Barbican

Charles Trenet
Barbican

An audience equally composed of British and French, young and old, stood and cheered as Charles Trenet, one of France's great chansonniers, made his first visit to London for more than 10 years at the age of 75 as part of the Barbican's "Images of France" season.

Still dapper, even boyish, and wearing the blue shirt and suit with a carnation in his bouton hole that has become his trade mark, Trenet's baritone voice is a shade deeper, but in performance his songs have lost none of their tonic qualities of charm, tenderness and gentle melancholy.

With the same innocence and impish exuberance that has thrilled pre and post-war French audiences he cheerfully tripped, clowned and danced through a strenuous programme of old favourites such as "Douce France", "Boum", "Je Chanite", some more than 30 years old, accompanied by his three musicians, a double bass and two pianists.

Less familiar songs included "Cinq Ans de Marine" about a sailor who joined the navy to see

the world but spent five years in an office on the rue Royale, and another featuring a pet kangaroo's adventures in Paris.

Trenet's songs have vitality, humour, sophistication and, above all, *le bonheur*. They have no social or political comment; his intention is to divert so his subjects are love, nature, childhood, and nostalgia for the past and they are delivered in a mellifluous timbre and a use for the French language that no other popular singer has matched.

Jean Cocteau considered him one of "the last inventors of melodic line", and his songs evoke the ambience of pre-war France and the years of the Popular Front when many French people were taking holidays for the first time and discovering the joys of the countryside.

It was a startling and moving performance with occasional asides as well as a rendering of "La Mer" in English, and it showed why so many of his 900 songs have laid the foundation for the style of post-war poet/singers such as Jacques Brel and Serge Reggiani. When singers are also poets as good as Charles Trenet, the Académie Française should perhaps consider making him one of their number.

A haunting parable by India's internationally acclaimed filmmaker

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The odds that Rob Bettinson's "adult comedy" would be worth the journey were never favourable — the title hardly inspires confidence — but the author's attractive adaptation of Catherine Cookson's *The Fifteen Streets* argued for his dramatic competence and in this city of Godiva one might surely hope for a pleasing glimpse of bared breast or engaging buttock.

Knees is all we get, pale knees beside the tentflaps, for this is a camp comedy, more in the pity, but then it is not much of any sort of comedy, adult or otherwise. The older women swear coarsely I dare say that is what being adult means. Characters make frequent trips to the toilets, sometimes with the panic speed of a tourist in an Arret advert. I should hate to think that was adult.

The tents are pitched somewhere in the Lake District. Charmain, wife of an absent mueli mogul, has been there three weeks with her brace of children whom we never, thanks to feeble contrivances, see. A lily-livered boyfriend from her student days arrives with his discontented wife, and his teenage daughter, too, who helps reduce the Belgrade's payroll still further by refusing to emerge from the family car.

Charmain has fallen heavily for the rock climber in the neighbouring tent, a smooth Adams in candy-striped climbing skin and designer headband. Her husband has been in the shower with the boyfriend's wife.

Details of these liaisons emerge in wretchedly laboured dialogue, burdened with irrelevant information about the characters' lives elsewhere, and spoken by almost everyone very loudly indeed. Their speech is a constant stream of insult and complaint, larded with tired old phrases ("You don't have to feel sorry on my account"), foolish exaggeration and antiquated euphemism ("If this is paradise I hope I'm destined for the warmer place").

An older camper overhears their secrets through the flaps of his tent and sensibly goes mad, sprouting up a pine tree, punching the absent children and barking like a dog before a coachload of Wordsworth lovers. His infuriated outburst is the play's best moment and Brian Poyser makes the most of it until the script becomes maudlin and caves in under him.

The candy-striped climber has a girl who wears a similar skin-tight outfit and in their different capacities each of these catches the eye. Little else does.

Jeremy Kingston

A man for all seasons

On Monday as part of the City of London Festival, Richard Hickox opens a new production at Christ Church, Spitalfields, conducting Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*. He spoke to Richard Morrison



Hickox: a priest's son, he first made his mark conducting choral music

Richard Hickox, 40 this year, says that his conducting career is undergoing "a process of rationalization". His current, punishing schedule of "bloody hard work" would certainly look irrational to any of the opportunists and careerists with which his profession abounds.

All that painstaking preparation of the London Symphony Chorus for great performances conducted by someone else, for instance, or the patient battle to establish an international profile for the Northern Sinfonia from an unpromising Tyne-side base, or the vital but unglamorous task of performing and recording new music by worthy British composers — none of this would be congenial work for jet-setters.

Yet if Hickox — bulky, boyish and with a slight but endearing stammer — has perhaps been too modest, unmythical and dutiful for his own good, British music-making has benefited enormously. Coming from a churchy background (his father was a priest, and Hickox was for 10 years organist of St Margaret's, Westminster), he first made his mark conducting choral music, and it has remained his mainstay. Does it worry him that he still occasionally prepares choruses for someone else? "No. Some would-be conductors go to the opera house for their training. I wasn't a good enough pianist to be a *répétiteur*; my best training was watching these great men at first hand. I have learnt so much from having sustained a real friendship with Colin Davis and Claudio Abbado.

"Anyway, I thrive off the London Symphony Chorus: it is the most stimulating thing I do, because the singers are so responsive." Ask Hickox about memorable LSC concerts and, with characteristic humility, he is more likely to cite Davis's performance of Beethoven's Ninth last year, or Svetlanov conducting the Moscow premiere of *The Dream of Gerontius*, rather than something he actually conducted himself, like the controversial premiere of Michael Berkeley's "disarmament oratorio *Or shall we die?*". Orchestrally, Hickox divides his time between the City of London Sinfonia, which he founded (and which now spear-heads the catalogue of the new

Virga Classics label), and the Northern Sinfonia, whose music director he became in 1983. Again, his first instinct is to be self-effacing. "I had an amazing stroke of luck when I first went there. Bradley Creswick was appointed leader, and he virtually transformed the orchestra: playing, morale, everything."

Hickox expanded the orchestra's size and repertoire, took it on its silver-jubilee American tour, and brought new recording work — notably a solid, absolutely mainstream Beethoven symphonies cycle now completed on ASV. "It is a pity that the Northern Sinfonia is not better known in London. I think all the regional orchestras have found that coming to London for one-off does not serve much purpose."

For a man who is "rationalizing", Hickox has an ominously vast list of current recording projects. Having dug extensively into lesser Elgar for EMI, he is now conducting the LSC in recordings of *Gerontius*, *The Kingdom*, and *The Apostles* for Chandos, with Mendelssohn's *Elijah* thrown in for good measure. For Virga, as well as much French and American music with the City of London Sinfonia, there are plans for him to record all Vaughan Williams's symphonies with the Philharmonia. And there is more English music, ancient and modern, coming out on EMI.

"You see, I don't want to be pigeonholed. I adore Handel — he's probably my favourite composer — but the thought of

conducting nothing but Handel would be frightful." Is there still repertoire he has his sights on? "Oh, little things like Wagner, Puccini, Verdi! I see the next phase of my development as being operatic."

In that respect, his current project — conducting a staging of Monteverdi's *Poppea* at Christ Church, Spitalfields — would seem to be a useful pointer. "The interior of Spitalfields is such a wonderfully natural set for Baroque opera, as I think was proved when we did *Alcina* in 1985. For *Poppea* we have commissioned Clifford Bartlett to do a new edition for just 15 instruments — everything stripped right down. And I'm going to play one of the continuo instruments, because I don't think it should be conducted."

In fact Hickox's use of Baroque instruments here offers a clue to quite a separate development in his career: in the early 1990s, he says, he is reallocating his time so that he can found a new original-instruments orchestra, to be called Spitalfields Baroque.

His international reputation is growing, particularly in America. But it will, one suspects, always be tempered by his love for performing British music with British musicians. "My home is here in England; living out of a suitcase is no way to live. And Charles Groves, who was very good to me, once gave me an excellent piece of advice: never worry about what your friends, colleagues and rivals are doing."

CONCERT

Philharmonia/
Sinopoli
Festival Hall

The Philharmonia's concert with Giuseppe Sinopoli on Tuesday was remarkable for its total lack of the remarkable. That is a serious matter in Bruckner's Seventh Symphony. Sinopoli has been known to inspire heartfelt praise and to elicit savage anger; but I could feel only a sense of regret and a slight sinking of the stomach at the end of the evening.

It was the Scherzo, that wild hunting of a cock-crow, which pointed to what was wrong. For the first time in my experience it failed to catch the breath, and it failed through a hair's breadth miscalculation of the surreal imagination. It was either that or a lack of communication at rehearsal, while each note was in its proper place, not one engaged in its context.

At the beginning there had been hope. Sinopoli is now taking deeper musical breaths, and they improved the circulation of theme and response in the first movement. The Adagio, too, began with a shrewd balance of horizontal movement and vertical intensity.

But what escapes Sinopoli's perception is the sea-change which Bruckner's musical matter undergoes in different orchestral registers and, indeed, in different tempo contexts. It can, perhaps, be safely assumed that if Bruckner doubles his note values, he does not need the imposition of a heavy drawing back of tempo as well. And because the lyrical interludes in the Adagio were too dense of texture, each returns to Bruckner's mighty cumulative chords of ascent simply lacked the power to fuel the final reprieve, triangle, cymbal and all.

If Sinopoli failed to find the energy of inner coherence in Bruckner, then Mahler, before the interval, fared little better. Catherine Malfitano, a memorable Susanna some years ago at Covent Garden, has been working with Sinopoli on *Madame Butterfly* in Berlin before she takes on the role in London this autumn. The partnership did not compensate for repertoire which was a mismatch for both her vocal and expressive range.

Hilary Finch

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LEGAL LA CREME. 2-9 PM c.15K. Interesting and varied job for a bilingual secretary/translator of English/mother tongue with excellent English shorthand...

CRIMINAL LAW. Small, friendly, young firm of solicitors require secretary/PA to get involved in the day-to-day running of the office in W1. Good all round ability. No legal experience necessary but would be preferable.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

Up to £11,088 incl.

This post offers an exciting opportunity for an experienced Personal Assistant to join one of Great Britain's leading educational institutions. The Polytechnic is entering a new and stimulating phase in its development...

Please telephone 01-240 3511

South Bank Polytechnic. An Equal Opportunities Employer.

PA/SECRETARY. For small West End Sales Office. Customer liaison, some shorthand and typing. Knowledge of German an advantage. Salary + benefits negotiable. Phone Mr. R. Barton / Mr. M. Stein 01-499 8108

CITY £12,500. PV Secretary and 2 1/2 for Director of personnel company. CVL, ex-client company. Excellent benefits. Salary £12,500/WK.

WEST END TO £13,000. Part-time PA and 1/2 for Director of Personnel. Excellent benefits. Salary £13,000/WK.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR THE PA SECRETARY. Chief Executive requires PA with excellent secretarial skills (age 25-35). West End office with international link. Successful applicant will be dealing with VIP's in commercial and diplomatic circles.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES. PORTUGUESE. Interesting and varied job for a bilingual secretary/translator of English/mother tongue with excellent English shorthand...

GRADUATE with FRENCH/GERMAN. Ex Basis + bonus. This successful Publishing Co requires someone with Publishing and/or PR experience who enjoys travelling and is seeking career prospects. Please call 01-485 5122/408 1326

COLLEGE LEAVERS. International Sports £25000 + great prospects. Our client in WC1 currently has vacancies for college leavers or 2nd jobs with excellent financial offers (100/50 wpm).

NON-SECRETARIAL WITH FLUENT FRENCH! A wonderful leading package. Use your wonderful background as a springboard to a career as a business sales assistant...

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES. 01-491 7100

PERSONNEL SEC. This position working for a large International Co in WC2 offers a varied and involving day arranging interviews, directing conference rooms, meeting appointments, general administration as well as audio typing (40% of day).

SECRETARY TRAVEL PR. Efficient secretary with good typing urgently required for a small executive company specialised in travel industry.

EXECUTIVE PA/SECRETARY c. £14,500. Director of a major bank is looking for a highly motivated, energetic and confident person who has a positive and confident attitude.

CHAIRMAN'S PA £14,000. A mature PA/Secretary is needed to assist the Chairman of this small and privately owned shipping insurance company based in the City.

THE CHURCHILL HOTEL. Requires SECRETARY TO THE GENERAL MANAGER. The General Manager of our luxury 5 Star Hotel is currently seeking an Executive Secretary.

CLIENT LIAISON. We need someone able to speak with our members, on all levels, primarily on the telephone. Humour, commonsense and ability to cope under pressure in a 'people's' business essential.

PROPERTY PANACHE £12,000 + EXC. PERKS. Two exciting opportunities have arisen within this international Merchant Bank. All you need are 2/3 years experience, O/A level education, 50wpm typing, WP knowledge, and a smart appearance.

NEW Product Launch Hammersmith - £12000 Package. A delightful Sales Manager of this international company is looking for an equally enthusiastic young secretary to help launch a new product.

ROOM AT RECEPTION £11,000. Based in W1, join this very prestigious firm of property consultants and run their busy reception area. You should be well spoken and warmly greeted with previous reception experience.

INTERIOR DESIGN. Small firm in W6 require Reception/Administrative Assistant. An interest in interior design desirable and willingness to turn one's hand to all aspects of administering the office.

SUPER SECRETARIES

ADMIN. Assistant £28,500. The Administration/Personnel Manager of a major bank is looking for a highly motivated, energetic and confident person who has a positive and confident attitude...

DRAKE PERSONNEL UP-MARKET JEWELLERS £13,000 +. This could be the opportunity you are waiting for! A well presented, mature sales person manage her beautiful shop, motivates her staff and grows with the company...

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL

LEGAL NOTICES. CHARITY COMMISSION. NOTICE is hereby given that the Charity Commission has approved the proposed merger of the Charity Commission and the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales...

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL. Continued from page 19

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XX

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
(?) Access for disabled

THEATRE LONDON

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT**: Hit black blues show, with Carol Woods, Sarah Woollett, Debbie Bishop and Peter Straker singing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago room.
Pleasance Theatre, Danman Street, W1 (01-437 4505). Tube: Ffocality Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-8.30pm and 9-11pm. £8.50-£14.50. (?)

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT**: New cast takes over leading roles in Simon Gray's play tracing the fortunes of undergraduates. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-435 2264). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, mats Fri and Sat 8-8.15pm. £6-£14.50.

★ **DONALD BYRDE**: Rare appearance by the trumpeter and educationalist whose career has oscillated between hard pop and more lucrative fusion music. Dundee Jazz Festival, Repertory Theatre, Wyndham Street (01-832 23530). 7.45pm. £5.50.

ROCK

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★ **WET WET WET**: It is soul, as they keep insisting, or are they old-fashioned teeny-pop stars as everyone else seems to think.
NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) 7.30pm. £7-£8.

DANCE

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The Big Top, Wexhampton, Valley Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire (0128 57212). 9.45pm, mat 2-4.15pm. £3-£10.

TALKS

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★ **THE SEMINARS OF JACQUES LACAN**: John Forrester, translator of the writings by psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan discusses ideas raised by his work.
ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647). 7.30pm. £2.50.

WALKS

★ **POLITICAL LONDON**: meet Westminster tube, 11am, £3 (also next Thurs).

★ **ARISTOCRATIC LONDON**: meet Green Park tube, 2.30pm, £3 (also next Thurs).

OTHER EVENTS

★ **NATIONAL PATCHWORK QUILT COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION**: Displays of quilts, some depicting Elizabethan England, demonstrations, specialist stalls, books, fabrics. A number of quilts for sale.
Audrey End Howard, Saffron Walden, Essex (0799 22399). Today until July 10 inclusive, 10-5pm. Admission to exhibition and park, Adult £3, Child £1.50.

★ **BRIGHTON ANTIQUES FAIR**: Sturdy antiques and fine art dealers selling a wide range of items, most to pre-1870 datelines. Lectures, restaurant, licensed bar.
Street, London W1 (01-437 1645), Mon-Fri 10-5.30pm, Sat 10-11pm, free, until August 5.

★ **FIGURING OUT THE BOX**: 12 artists including Ellen Cooper and Graham Crowley illustrate the revival of British figurative art.
Laurie Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle (091-232 7734). Mon-Fri 10-5.30pm, Sat 10-4.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm, free, until July 24.

JAZZ

★ **LOOSE TUBES**: There are some fine compositions - notably from the bassist Steve Berry - lurking amidst the ordinary.
Chichester Festival Hall, Chichester Cathedral (tel 0243 780192) 7.30pm, 26-27.

OPERA

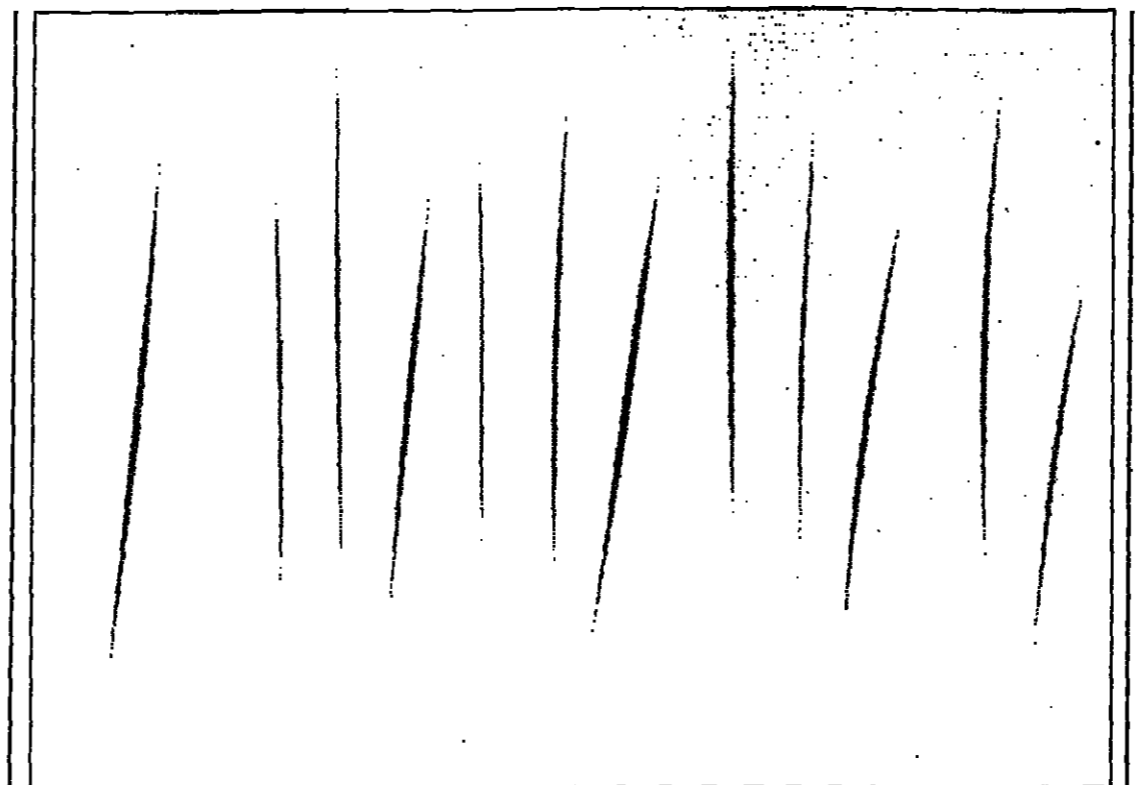
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Cutting an artist's niche

The Italian modernist Lucio Fontana (1899-1968) was a committed experimenter. He toyed with Cubist sculpture and artistic concepts of every variety. He even painted a series of all-white pictures, but never successfully established a niche for himself. And then, in 1949, it happened. During a bout of frustration he attacked a canvas with a Stanley knife. He stood back in astonishment and examined the revelatory scores and flashes he had made. This began the extensive series of works called Spacial Concepts, of which 'Expectations' (above) is a mature example. They represent Fontana's unique contribution to 20th century art. Over the next 20 years he refined the process by judiciously controlling the angle and length of slash which, when parted like lips, revealed shimmering black gases stretched behind the canvas. "People think that to cut or pierce is easy," he once explained, "but so much of this cannot be disregarded." An indefatigable pioneer, Fontana went on to incorporate into his creations pieces of technology, like neon lights and television screens. Examples from most phases of Fontana's career are featured in an exhibition starting tomorrow at Whitehead Art Gallery, London E1 (01-377 0107), Tuesday to Sunday 11am-5pm, free, until September 18. David Lee

EVENING

★ **DELME DELIGHTS**: The Delmé Quartet is heard in Haydn's Quartet Op 54 No 2, Beethoven's Quartet Op 95; in between Jack Brymer plays Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, Haydn's Flute Concerto, and John Field's Flute Concerto.
Wigmore Hall, 7.30pm. £2-50.

★ **BRAIN ELEVATION**: See caption. Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road, London NW1 (01-226 8211), 3pm, 7pm. £2 (two concerts), £5 (7pm concert).

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GALLERIES

★ **SHARON HALL**: A one-day show for a young painter selected by Kats Wharton.
Arts and Crafts Gallery, 11 Tottenham Avenue, London W1 (01-837 3089), Mon-Fri 10.30am-6pm, Sat 10.30am-12.30pm, free, Friday only.

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★ **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**: James Quinn as the wise white lawyer in Harper Lee's best-selling novel set growing up in Alabama. Based on the Contact Theatre, Manchester production, directed by Anthony Clark.
Theatre Royal, Craven Hill, SE10 (01-858 7755). Train: Greenwhich. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, £5-£10.

★ **THIS ISLAND'S MINE**: Touching and ingenious play by Guy Swainston. Portland Bank for further run. Fine first production.
Dull Hall, 18 Chertsey Street, WC1 (01-637 8270). Tube: Goodge Street. Tues-Sat 8-10.10pm, Tues, Wed, Thurs 8.45-10.10pm. £5-£10.

★ **WINNIE**: Musical alighting at a portrait of Churchill and missing.
Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, SW1 (01-834 1317). Tube: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, £7.50-£18.50.

★ **HIDDEN CITY** (15): Untidy but assertive directing debut from writer Stephen Pollakoff; with Charles Dance and Cassie Stuart as a writer and film researcher trying to unravel Government secrets (108 min).
Sisdeo (01-437 0757). Progs 3.00, 5.00, 7.00, 9.00.

★ **SEPTEMBER** (PG): Woody Allen in ruminative, Chekhovian mood, with Mia Farrow, Denholm Elliott, Sam Waterston, Elaine Stritch and Jack Warden as friends and relatives, trying to talk away their frustrations (83 min).
Odeon Haymarket (01-838 7897). Progs 1.30, 4.00, 6.30, 9.00.

★ **THE FIFTEEN STREETS**: Catherine Cookson romance set in Edwardian South Shields. Lovely stuff.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-839 4401). Tube: Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £5-£14.50.

★ **GREENE**: Steven Berkoff's savage version of *Oedipus*, set in East London. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-832 2264). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, mats Fri and Sat 8-8.15pm. £5-£14.50.

★ **DOWNFALL**: A close look at contemporary urban terror by Gregory Morton, tightly promising author of *Ambulance*.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court Theatre, 29 Duke Street, W1 (01-252 2294). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, mats Fri and Sat 8-8.15pm. £5-£14.50.

★ **THE COMMON PURSUIT**: New cast takes over leading roles in Simon Gray's play tracing the fortunes of undergraduates. Phoenix Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-435 2264). Tube: Tottenham Court Road. Mon-Thurs 8-10.15pm, Fri and Sat 8.45-11pm, mats Fri and Sat 8-8.15pm. £5-£14.50.

★ **BLUES IN THE NIGHT**: Hit black blues show, with Carol Woods, Sarah Woollett, Debbie Bishop and Peter Straker singing their hearts out in a sleazy Chicago room.
Pleasance Theatre, Danman Street, W1 (01-437 4505). Tube: Ffocality Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-8.30pm and 9-11pm. £8.50-£14.50. (?)

★ **STATUS QUO**: Their attempts at recording some slightly modernising sounding material has resulted in noticeably diminished sales. Live however, they have never abandoned that sturdy old boogie blues.
Wembley Arena, Empire Way, Middlesex (01-902 1234) 7.30pm. £9-£10.

★ **WET WET WET**: It is soul, as they keep insisting, or are they old-fashioned teeny-pop stars as everyone else seems to think.
NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133) 7.30pm. £7-£8.

★ **WEIGHING THE HEART**: Ian Spinks' recording for Second Strike with music by the band Men Jumping.
Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 6919). 7.30-9.15pm. £5.50-£9.50.

★ **L'AFILLE MAL GARDEE**: Ashton's romantic comedy for Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet.
The Big Top, Wexhampton, Valley Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire (0128 57212). 9.45pm, mat 2-4.15pm. £3-£10.

★ **LONG RUNNERS**: ★ *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*: Ouse's Theatre (01-734 1166). . . ★ *The Business of Murder*: Mayfair Theatre (01-832 3038). . . ★ *Cats*: New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4079). . . ★ *Follies*: Shaftesbury Theatre (01-379 5359). . . ★ *42nd Street*: Drury Lane Theatre (01-436 8108). . . ★ *Kiss Me Kate*: Savoy Theatre (01-836 8888). . . ★ *Las Llasiones*: Dancerguesse: Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111). . . ★ *My Girl*: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/4). . . ★ *Las Mitrabales*: Palace

HP Sauce passes to the French

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

HP Sauce, Harold Wilson's favourite condiment, whose label used to feature the French of Britain's schoolboys, has been sold to the French.

The best selling brown sauce, dating from 1886, whose label bears the Houses of Parliament and the even older-established Lea & Perrins Worcester sauce, have crossed the Channel, managerially speaking.

They are the two best-known brand names belonging to HP Foods which has been sold by Hanson, the group headed by Lord Hanson, for £199 million to BSN, France's leading food and beverage group. BSN brands include Evian mineral water, Gervais Danone dairy products, Kronenbourg beer and champagnes by Lanson and Pommery.

In Britain HP is brand leader in the brown sauce sector with a 70 per cent share, as is Lea & Perrins, established in 1823, in its sector with 51 per cent of the market. Both sauces, launched in 1904, are also in the brand portfolio. With a fifth of the tomato ketchup market, it is the second best seller to Heinz. These sauce markets have been growing at an annual rate of 5 per cent over the last three years.

Other HP products include baked beans and tinned pasta with pickles under the Epicure label. In the US Lea & Perrins is market leader in Worcester sauce and third in steak sauce.

This brand strength, built over so many years, and the prospect of getting its own first strong industrial and distribution base in Britain has excited M Antoine Riboud, the chairman of BSN, which his grandfather helped create when it was a packaging and glass company.

M Riboud had an occasional struggle with the English language yesterday. For the microwave oven he had a splendid appellation in "microw-ferme."



Sauce and champagne: Antoine Riboud (left) the chairman of BSN and Nigel Worne, general manager of HP Foods. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

He described HP and the Worcester sauces as "a walled Anglo Saxon habit" and went on: "We are Latin. We are incapable of going alone into this Anglo-Saxon market. We need all the HP people and want to develop it as far as we can."

Would the closely-guarded secret of Lea & Perrins sauce remain so? M Riboud: "The sauces and the secrets are safe with us." Having such brands as HP and Lea & Perrins is like having the Martells of the sauce world, he added.

Beside him was Mr Nigel Worne, general manager of HP Foods, who said the 1,000 workforce had welcomed the French takeover. HP has factories at Worcester, Aston Cross near Birmingham, Market Harborough and North Walsham, Lincolnshire. He expects job expansion rather than decline.

BSN expects to use the HP Foods distribution system to increase sales of its French brands and anticipates a sales boost for the HP labels in Europe through the BSN distribution networks. BSN has been expanding, particularly in Spain and Italy through company acquisitions. It claims world leadership already in fresh dairy products including its yoghurt range, and to be number one also in bottled mineral water. It also claims to be the world's third largest biscuit and champagne maker, Europe's second largest brewer and its largest bottle manufacturer. It has built up its food and drink business since 1970. M Riboud said: "Everybody is talking about 1992 but for me that sort of

approach began in 1980. Britain was the market we had to get into in a serious way." For a Frenchman he takes a realistic view of world eating habits. He said: "More and more consumers all over the world are eating similar food. All farmed trout tastes the same. What varies the taste is the sauce. With imagination and innovation you can do a lot of things with a sauce."

Silent horror of an Iranian cold store

Continued from page 1

Guards, normally the most volatile of revolutionaries, are reduced to silence: horror can even silence revolutionary zeal. Only occasionally did an Iranian official emerge to open a coffin or pull aside the plastic sheeting. "Come, you are a lady," one said to a female reporter. "Come and see this woman who was killed."

Yet if this might seem in Western eyes a gesture of bad taste, an intrusion into grief, there was no avoiding some terrible conclusion here: that so many of the dead - 66 - were children, that some of the coffins are so very small. That one girl of 20 lies in the same wooden box as her year-old baby, Fatima Faidzaizada was found in the sea, still clutching her child to her breast, which is why the baby, Zoleila Ashan, is beside her now. There were some more

Three quarters of Americans believe the USS Vincennes was right to shoot at the Iranian Airbus and they blame Iran, according to the first US opinion poll. Most said they would have fired the missile. The poll was published shortly before the White House announced that the Administration was considering an offer of compensation to relatives of the victims.

Opinion poll, page 10

clinical words here from those Iranians involved in the air traffic control centre at Bandar Abbas airport. One official said that while he could not be sure that the Airbus's identification transmitter was switched on, the USS Vincennes had given its warnings to the plane only on the UHF wavelength while the Americans must have known that it could only receive warnings on the VHF wavelength.

Somali plea to Britain over rebels

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Somali Government yesterday appealed to Britain to stop giving sanctuary to a London-based rebel group which attempted to seize the northern region of Somalia in May. It also called for rebel leaders to be sent back to Somalia for trial.

The rebels are led by a former Somali minister Mr Ahmed Mohammad Mahmud Siyano, who was given asylum in Britain in 1982. His organization, the Somali National Movement, has said it aims to overthrow the Government of President Barre.

The Somali Ambassador in London, Mr Salah Mohammad Ali, said that previous appeals to the British Government had produced no result. He denied reports by Amnesty International and by British newspapers alleging massacres

Identity card to be enforced

Continued from page 1

liamentary session will be an enabling Bill, giving Ministers the power to order compulsory membership. It will also detail other measures, such as closed-circuit television, which clubs could be ordered to introduce.

Eventually, the Government's aim is to spread the membership scheme so that English fans cannot buy tickets to matches abroad without a valid card if outbreaks of violence are predicted.

After the meeting, Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, said the legislation to give statutory backing to a national membership scheme would be set up for the 1989-90 season.

effective "then we would have to consider very carefully indeed the future participation of the England team abroad."

The Football Association announced before the meeting that it was cancelling the friendly international in Italy on November 16, and it now looks as if the first key test for England will be in the World Cup qualifying match in Sweden in the autumn.

Mr Moynihan said that the question of the withdrawal of passports from convicted hooligans would be easier to review when there was a central computer for applicants, which is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

Mr Moynihan had wanted the club to adopt membership schemes voluntarily and so avoid the need for legislation. But the game's representatives made it clear yesterday that they could not deliver such a commitment.

them not to expect financial help from the Government for introducing the computerized scheme. The Government is also considering applications from local authorities for by-laws to restrict or prevent the consumption of alcohol in public places.

In a joint statement by the Government, the Football Association and the Football League, the two football authorities accepted that partial club membership schemes had not made a "significant contribution" to controlling hooliganism.

The proposal for a 100 per cent membership scheme was first suggested by the Prime Minister in 1985. But over the past three years the football authorities persuaded government officials of the impracticality of the scheme because they knew it would eliminate the casual spectator.

Mr Bert Millichip, the FA chairman, and Mr Philip Carter, president of the Football League, both declined to comment after the meeting.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,715

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 28 indicating starting positions for clues.

WORD-WATCHING

- A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
- By Philip Howard
- IRIDULE**
a. Derisory and taunting.
b. An iridescent cloudlet.
c. A slave of the Rainbow.
- THELYPHORIC**
a. Corrupting women.
b. A deplimentary.
c. Of a venomous reptile.
- BULLANACOW**
a. A tropical American parrot.
b. Hermaproditic cattle.
c. Corned beef.
- SAPOROUS**
a. Over-intelligent.
b. Sweating profusely.
c. Tasty.
- Answers on page 22, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,714. A crossword grid with the words: GOLIATH, FASHION, U I V O I P M E M E, I G L O O P A N T O M I M E, L I V I I G O T D, L I P O D Y F E B R U A R Y, F A A A S R S, O L D E N P I P E D R E A M, R G O O R S, D A N G E R O U S A C O R N, P O L I N E T A G P R V A, C U P O R T E A G O P I N G, A I T E R R A T S, L A U N C H I N G S T A I R, L I N E B H L M M L, F R E E D O M A N Y T I M E.

WEATHER

Most western and northern districts will see another showery day with some heavy rain accompanied by thunder. Wetter areas are likely to be western Scotland, Northern Ireland and north-west England. Southern and eastern England will have sunshine and occasional showers. It will be rather windy in the South and South-west. Outlook: sunshine and showers, confined to the North-west by Saturday.

ABROAD		AROUND BRITAIN	
City	Temp	City	Temp
Algeria	35	London	10
Alex'dria	31	Manchester	10
Amst'dam	21	Nottingham	10
Athens	38	Sheff	10
Bahia	30	Sunderland	10
Barbados	30	Swansea	10
Bombay	31	Torquay	10
Brussels	23	Walsby	10
Cairo	37	Widnes	10
Calcutta	33	Wrexham	10
Chongking	28	Cardiff	10
Cincinnati	22	London	10
Cologne	22	Sheff	10
Dublin	16	Manchester	10
Frankfurt	22	Nottingham	10
Hamburg	22	Sheff	10
Helsinki	22	Sunderland	10
Karachi	33	Swansea	10
London	10	Torquay	10
Lyons	23	Walsby	10
Madrid	21	Widnes	10
Manila	31	Wrexham	10
Moscow	23	Cardiff	10
New York	23	London	10
Peking	28	Manchester	10
Rangoon	29	Nottingham	10
Rio de J.	23	Sheff	10
Rome	24	Sunderland	10
Santiago	21	Swansea	10
Sao Paulo	28	Torquay	10
Seoul	28	Walsby	10
Shanghai	29	Widnes	10
Singapore	28	Wrexham	10
Sydney	21	Cardiff	10
Taipei	27	London	10
Tel Aviv	30	Manchester	10
Tokyo	25	Nottingham	10
Toronto	27	Sheff	10
Tripoli	27	Sunderland	10
Valencia	28	Swansea	10
Vancouver	12	Torquay	10
Venice	29	Walsby	10
Warsaw	27	Widnes	10
Washington	20	Wrexham	10
Wellington	10	Cardiff	10
Wien	23	London	10
Zurich	11	Manchester	10

HIGH TIMES		THE POUND	
City	Temp	Country	Rate
London	8.1	Australia \$	2.54
Manchester	8.0	Austria Sch	22.90
Nottingham	8.0	Belgium Fr	63.25
Sheff	8.0	Canada \$	2.18
Sunderland	8.0	Denmark Kr	12.28
Swansea	8.0	Finland Mk	11.50
Torquay	8.0	France Fr	11.90
Walsby	8.0	Germany Dm	3.225
Widnes	8.0	Green Pt	1.58
Wrexham	8.0	Hong Kong \$	10.75
Cardiff	12.18	Ireland Pt	1.207
London	11.0	Italy Lit	2408
Manchester	11.0	Japan Yen	163
Nottingham	11.0	Netherlands Gld	3.635
Sheff	11.0	Norway Kr	11.25
Sunderland	11.0	Portugal Esc	200
Swansea	11.0	Spain Ptas	166.6
Torquay	11.0	Sweden Kr	4.50
Walsby	11.0	Switzerl Fr	2.15
Widnes	11.0	Taiwan Nts	17.70
Wrexham	11.0	USSR Rub	4.00
Cardiff	12.23		
London	12.57		
Manchester	5.58		
Nottingham	5.30		
Sheff	5.40		
Sunderland	5.40		
Swansea	5.40		
Torquay	5.40		
Walsby	5.40		
Widnes	5.40		
Wrexham	5.40		
Cardiff	5.40		
London	5.40		
Manchester	5.40		
Nottingham	5.40		
Sheff	5.40		
Sunderland	5.40		
Swansea	5.40		
Torquay	5.40		
Walsby	5.40		
Widnes	5.40		
Wrexham	5.40		
Cardiff	5.40		

Commons sketch

Howe leaps ahead in the knee-jerk

The Knee-Jerk is a swell new dance that's sweeping the floor of the House of Commons, and it goes like this. You stay well away from your opposite number, you glare straight in his face, you wiggle your index finger in his direction and you shout "Knee-Jerk!" at the top of your voice. You then sit down with a self-satisfied smirk, and your opposite number goes through the same motions all over again.

Mr Gerald Kaufman might seem like an unlikely Chubby Checker to Sir Geoffrey Howe's Fat Boy, but he was dead set on dragging the Foreign Secretary on to the dance floor. Leaping up as the Speaker announced the next record, Mr Kaufman immediately condemned the Government's "knee-jerk support of the USA" over their shooting down of the Iranian Airbus.

Sir Geoffrey was quick to learn the new step. Up he popped, ready to twist the afternoon away, condemning Mr Kaufman's very own "knee-jerk reaction to a carefully considered statement". On previous occasions, Sir Geoffrey has tended to sit out the hotter numbers, preferring the gentle tap tap of a foot to any full-blown freak-out, but yesterday afternoon Mr Kaufman managed to change all that.

Sir Geoffrey began to wag his little red pencil in Mr Kaufman's direction. "We reaffirm - and I hope the Right Honourable Gentleman doesn't doubt this - the validity of any action taken in self defence". Sir Geoffrey had never been more bouncy, swinging and wagging that crazy ditty of his as if there was no tomorrow. "I need no lectures from the Right Honourable Gentleman to take every action we possibly can to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict."

Tell it like it is, Sir Geoff! The wild Conservative cats seemed to be purring with delight. They had never seen their lad move with such agility; in fact, up until now, they had never seen him move at all. But that old flamenco blood seemed to be coursing through his veins. His opposite number seemed quite taken aback by the flamboyance of these gesticulations. Mr Kaufman

chose to sit out the pen dance, a slightly forced smile on his lips. While this smile was still playing his glance turned away from Sir Geoffrey towards a small stain on his own shirt. What does a Shadow Foreign Secretary do when threatened by a small stain? Why, he goes for the Knee-Jerk Reaction, licking his finger, dabbing at the stain, admitting defeat, and finally pulling his jacket across as part of a carefully choreographed cover-up.

After a Latin American Free-for-All, the bizarre pair again took to the floor for the South African All-Comers' Cha-Cha-Cha. While the Labour benches sang the Blues over the Sharpeville Six, a voice from the Conservative benches bellowed "What's it gotta do with us", and, judging by their mutters, and mumbles, a number of Conservatives wanted to remain seated.

Sir Geoffrey never shines in the South African dance section, his high kicks at apartheid always failing to stretch much above ankle level. He emphasized that he was pushing for democracy and that he was "seeking to procure the result that the whole House wants". "Not the whole House," rapped back a Labour backbencher, and the coy grin on the face of Mr Eric Forth and Mr Neil Hamilton seemed to confirm this diagnosis. It was again time for Mr Kaufman to put on his dancing shoes.

"Having properly rejected the racist hypothesis from his own backbenches, Mr Kaufman shuffled provocatively, desperately trying to entice Sir Geoffrey into another show of pencil-wagging, and ended by asking the Prime Minister to telephone the South African President.

Sir Geoffrey just couldn't resist another Knee-Jerk. He was up on his feet, putting the pencil, denying all "racist braying" and arguing for "measured actions". Any appeal would not be helped, he said, "by the drama of a telephone call". But, after watching him on the dance-floor, it is hard to believe that a simple telephone call really holds much drama for such a wild and crazy guy.

Craig Brown

Health authority pays damages for operation

By Craig Seton

North Staffordshire Health Authority agreed yesterday to pay £202,000 to Mrs Joan Riley, aged 51, of Hedgesford, Staffordshire, who was left partially paraplegic after an operation.

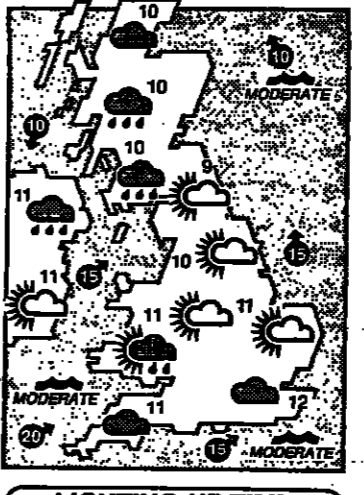
It is the second time in seven months that the authority has paid damages after an operation. Mrs Riley, who suffered from curvature of the spine,

was operated on in 1984 by Mr John Dove, an orthopaedic surgeon at the North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke on Trent, to relieve pain to her ribs. She is now confined to a wheelchair.

Last December the authority paid £300,000 to Miss Julie Edwards, aged 17, of Stoke, who is paralysed from the chest down.

Health, page 15

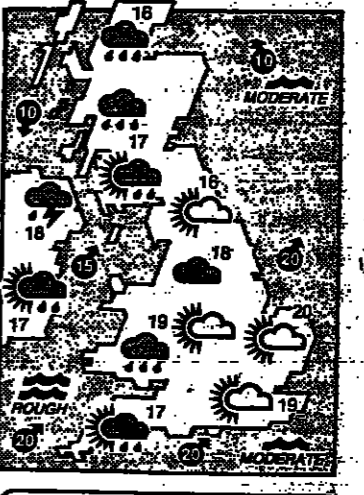
AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

Location	Time
London	9:40 pm to 4:24 am
Edinburgh	10:27 pm to 4:05 am
Manchester	10:07 pm to 4:21 am
Penzance	10:03 pm to 4:52 am

PM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 19C (66F); min 7pm to 10pm, 10C (50F). Rain: 24hr, 0.4in (10.4mm). Sun: 24hr to 5pm, 3hrs.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 16C (61F); min 6pm to 9pm, 7C (45F). Rain: 24hr to 5pm, 0.4in (10.4mm). Sun: 24hr to 5pm, 3hrs.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Manchester, 10.0C (50F); lowest day temp: London, 10.0C (50F). Highest night temp: Glasgow, 10.0C (50F); lowest night temp: London, 10.0C (50F).

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

POLLEN COUNT

City	Pollen
Belfast	15
Birmingham	15
Bristol	15
Cardiff	15
Edinburgh	15
Glasgow	15
London	15
Liverpool	15
Manchester	15
Newcastle	15
Nottingham	15
Sheff	15
Sunderland	15
Swansea	15
Torquay	15
Walsby	15
Widnes	15
Wrexham	15
Cardiff	15

THE POUND

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia \$	Bank	2.54
Austria Sch	Bank	22.90
Belgium Fr	Bank	63.25
Canada \$	Bank	2.18
Denmark Kr	Bank	12.28
Finland Mk	Bank	11.50
France Fr	Bank	11.90
Germany Dm	Bank	3.225
Green Pt	Bank	1.58
Hong Kong \$	Bank	10.75
Ireland Pt	Bank	1.207
Italy Lit	Bank	2408
Japan Yen	Bank	163
Netherlands Gld	Bank	3.635
Norway Kr	Bank	11.25
Portugal Esc	Bank	200
Spain Ptas	Bank	166.6
Sweden Kr	Bank	4.50
Switzerl Fr	Bank	2.15
Taiwan Nts	Bank	17.70
USSR Rub	Bank	4.00

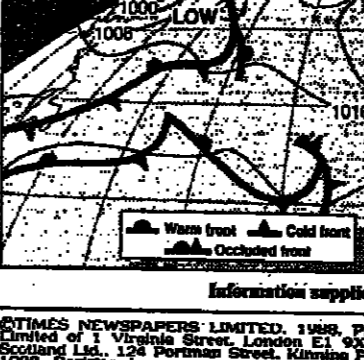
Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 105.2 (May)
London: The FT Index closed up 9.0 at 1494.3.

TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times today: 10am, 11.15am, 3pm and 4.55pm.

NOON TODAY



MARKETS	
FT 30 Share	1494.3 (+9.0)
FT-SE 100	1670.0 (+15.2)
USM (Datastream)	163.09 (+0.81)
THE POUND	
US dollar	1.7135 (+0.0050)
W German mark	3.1211 (+0.0082)
Trade-weighted	75.5 (+0.3)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Mystery buyer for Elstree

A consortium formed by Tranwood Earl & Company, the investment banker which is headed by Mr Peter Earl, a demerger specialist, has emerged as the buyer of the Elstree film studios in Hertfordshire, whose sale by the Cannon Group last week aroused fierce controversy in the film industry.

But the announcement has left the property world little the wiser, as neither side will reveal who is behind the consortium or how much it is paying for the 29-acre site. Mr Earl said: "I think there's a genuine concern that people who bought something that was put on the market for sale are going to be vilified."

Tiphook soars

Tiphook, the container and trailer rental group, stunned the market yesterday with a 155 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £10 million on turnover up 72 per cent to £67.7 per cent for the year to April 30. The dividend was increased by 23 per cent to 5.38p.

Loan rate up

UCB Home Loans Corporation is raising its mortgage rate by 1.45 percentage points to 10.95 per cent from August 1.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2158.83 (-1.78)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27766.50 (+189.43)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2737.51 (+55.80)
Amsterdam	Gen	289.55 (+4.0)
Sydney	AO	1589.2 (+17.7)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1502.4 (+19.4)
Brussels	General	5012.9 (+4.3)
Paris	CAC	1057.80 (+1.0)
Zurich	SKA Gen	474.7 (+2.2)
London	FT-A All-Share	869.43 (+7.08)
	FT-100	1057.80 (+1.0)
	FT-Gilt Index	2147.1 (+1.2)
	FT-Fixed Interest	97.42 (+0.05)
	FT-Govt Secs	88.08 (+0.05)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERs	Sub Circle	443p (+15p)
	Time Products	233p (+10p)
	Meyer Intl	411p (+15p)
	S Miller	197p (+12p)
	Nat West	335p (+11p)
	Helical Bar	335p (+11p)
	LASMO	472p (+14p)
	Enterprise	478p (+12p)
	Rover	730p (+14p)
	Grange	300p (+22p)
	GAM	315p (+25p)
	Tax Holdings	195p (+17p)
	AB Elect	440p (+12p)
	Rackitt & Colman	948p (+11p)
	Canover	395p (+13p)
	Tiphook	382p (+37p)
	Chapman	337p (+25p)

FALLS	British Aerospace	410p (-10p)
	BFP	315p (-15p)
	A Cohen	750p (-25p)
	Closing prices	
	Bargains	26340

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10%
3-month interbank	10 1/4-10%
3-month eligible bills	9 3/4-9 1/2%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Funds 7 1/2%	
3-month Treasury Bills	6.51-6.49%
30-year bonds	10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.7135	\$ £1.7135
£ DM3.1211	\$ DM3.1211
£ Sfr2.5917	\$ Sfr2.5917
£ FF10.5072	\$ FF10.5072
£ Yen228.75	\$ Yen228.75
£ Index75.5	\$ Index75.5
ECU £0.66537	SDR £0.769823

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$438.10 (\$438.80)
close	\$437.00-437.50 (\$255.00-255.50)
New York	Comex \$436.50-437.00*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug.) pm \$14.55/bbl (\$14.15)
*Denotes latest trading price

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: Builder Group (03373), just added to the Stock-watch list, went to a 38p premium on the placing price; the bid for Harris Queensway (01256) pushed the shares 7p higher; a broker's recommendation was good for an 11p rise for Cookson (07948); bid speculation pushed Pleasurama (02209) 7 1/2p higher; Chapman Industries (02062) jumped 25p in a thin market.

● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak including VAT.

Agreed deal marks the end of a 30-year empire for Sir Phil Harris

Gulliver offer of £450m for Harris group

By Cliff Feltham

The City consortium led by Mr Jimmy Gulliver, the retailing tycoon, yesterday launched its keenly awaited takeover bid for the troubled Harris Queensway carpets and furniture group valuing the business at £450 million.

Mr Gulliver is offering 190p a share for the group but is hoping to recoup at least £100 million by selling parts of the business including Hamleys' Regent Street toy shop in the West End of London.

The deal signals the end of the empire created by Sir Phil Harris 30 years ago and marks the biggest challenge yet for Mr Gulliver, the former head of the Argyll food group.

The terms, worked out over the last few weeks, are being recommended by Sir Phil and Great Universal Stores who between them own just over 40 per cent of Harris Queensway. The offer is through Lowndes, a new company which will be listed, and is half in cash half in shares.

Harris Queensway announced a bid approach in May after reporting a plunge in pre-tax profits last year from £50 million to £16.9 million.

Mr Gulliver said yesterday: "The company seems to have lost its way. It was all right while Sir Phil was able to run it hands-on but once it started making acquisitions the management did not seem to be able to get behind the marketing and selling properly. It started to drift down-market when it should have been going more up-market. Now we have to try and re-position it in the market place."

There was a muted response last night from Sir Phil — whose family will collect £69 million from the sale. He said he believed the deal was the best that could have been done for shareholders in the circumstances.

Comment.....27

As part of the deal, Sir Phil and several boardroom colleagues are paying £19 million cash for the Harveys chain of 65 soft furnishing shops. Other parts of the group which are being sold include Hamleys, acquired two years ago for £30 million.

The first priority for Mr Gulliver and Mr Eddie Dayan, aged 45, the group's new managing director, is to re-launch the remaining 440 carpet stores and 400 furniture shops. The Times Furnishing chain may be renamed Queensway.



Good shepherd: Jimmy Gulliver, who aims to guide Harris Queensway back to the fold, yesterday (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Hogg rises by 36% to £11m

By Carol Ferguson

Hogg Robinson, the travel, estate agency and freight forwarding group, revealed profits slightly below market expectations yesterday. In its first full set of results since it was demerged from the insurance broking conglomerate just under a year ago, pre-tax profits rose by 36 per cent to £11 million on turnover up by 37 per cent to £86.8 million. The total dividend is 4.5p. The share price was steady at 227p.

Travel, the biggest division, reached record profits of £6.7 million. Mr Brian Perry, the group's chairman, said that this was a first-class achievement in a market disrupted by ill-considered discounting on the part of a number of retail competitors. However, he said that Hogg Robinson's ability to do late bookings would stand it in good stead.

Transport contributed £2.3 million despite a charge of £500,000 for the enforced closure of its Danish operating division.

Financial services grew by 40 per cent to £2.1 million. Mr Perry said: "The Government has done us a few favours with recent legislation and financial services is one of the major businesses we will be investing in along with estate agencies."

He said that he was disappointed with the result from the estate agencies, but he was "very encouraged" by the performance so far this year. He said: "After 14 acquisitions in 16 months, we now have the systems for 200 offices, compared with the 100 branches we now have."

Tempus, page 26

Young cool over Clowes cash aid

By Sheila Gunn and Lawrence Lever

Lord Young of Graffham, the Trade and Industry Secretary, and Mr Francis Maude, his junior Minister, hinted strongly yesterday that investors in the Gibraltar arm of Barlow Clowes, the collapsed investment group, stand little chance of receiving compensation for any lost savings.

Lord Young insisted that he could not be held responsible for Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar operation which crashed in May.

"If people want to go and invest in unregulated parts of the world, they must be aware of the risk they are running."

Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers, the UK operation of Barlow Clowes, was licensed by the DTI. It was formally wound up in the High Court yesterday.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*, Lord Young refused to give any signs of possible changes in policy, or possible compensation for those who lost their savings until Sir Godfrey Le Queuse's inquiry reports.

He said: "We should see what the facts are first before raising false hopes."

Mr Maude was pressed by MPs to announce help for hard-hit investors during a short debate.

Those investing in Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers "have a good chance of recovering a good part of their money", he said, but for the cases involving Barlow Clowes International "the position looks rather less encouraging."

Mr Anthony Gold, of Alexander Tatham, the Manchester solicitors, which is coordinating a legal action group representing several thousand Barlow Clowes investors, said: "The Government must accept that many people, when investing in Barlow Clowes International, did so because they were aware that the UK end of the operation was licensed, and that fact can not be ignored."

"Secondly, if it is shown that the DTI should have closed down the UK end of the operations some years ago, the Gibraltar end would have folded as night follows day."

Sterling recovery continues

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent

Sterling's recovery continued yesterday after Monday's increase in base rates, with no pressure in the money markets for another rise in rates from the present 10 per cent level.

The pound was boosted by the restoration of a sizeable interest rate differential in Britain. A firmer tone to oil prices also helped sterling.

The sterling index rose by 0.1 points to 75.5, as sterling gained almost a pennig to DM3.1211, and half a cent to \$1.7135.

The dollar was unaffected by sales of the American currency led by the West German Bundesbank, although it slipped against the yen.

Fears are starting to emerge about next week's US trade figures.

After two unexpectedly good sets of figures, there is a worry that next week's picture could be poor.

Expectations are for a monthly deficit of about \$11 billion, after two consecutive deficits below \$10 billion.

Comment, page 27

British Steel doubles its profits to record £410m

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

British Steel forged glowing net profits of £410 million in the year to last March, the highest in its history and more than doubling the previous year's level of £178 million.

It was at the upper end of expectations although first-half profits of £190 million showed how buoyant trading conditions and the harvest from British Steel's cost-cutting and efficiency drives were paying off. It was the third year of leaping profits after years of losses.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Trade and Industry, welcomed the "excellent" results as a "decisive step forward in performance". He said it confirmed British Steel was ready for a return to the private sector.

The precise timing for privatization of British Steel would be subject to market conditions, he said.

But Sir Robert Scholey, British Steel's chairman, said he hoped flotation could take place before the end of this year — November still looks the favoured month.

But Sir Robert would not be drawn on the likely valuation, which City analysts have been putting at well over £2 billion. That, to some extent, depends on the level of profits in the year to next March and what is clear is that big percentage profit increases seen over the past three years are now likely to rise more gently, with the City expecting at least £450 million for the full year or possibly £470 million.

But while the main effects of cost-cutting at British Steel may have come through, Mr Martin Llowarch, chief executive, argued that the pursuit of higher efficiency

Steel could readily meet its costs and capital spending at levels needed to keep the operation up to or beyond those of competitors.

There have been earlier estimates that British Steel needs about £350 million a year to cover those items, which gives a measure to the level of profits which could be distributed to prospective shareholders.

The possibility of British Steel pushing hard into European markets now that European steel quotas are disappearing was played down by Mr Llowarch. "Steady growth is the watchword," he said.

British Steel has acquired steel stockholder interests on the Continent and now sees the prospect of developing these businesses rather than acquiring another batch.

In the year steel deliveries in the UK rose by 18 per cent to 7.7 million tonnes and exports by 17 per cent to 4.4 million tonnes. Exports remained at 36 per cent of total deliveries but British Steel's market share both at home and abroad had been increased.

German action

was an on-going process and that continuous results could be expected.

British Steel has cut capacity and manning as it has moved to more sophisticated production and is also moving more into added value products such as coated steels.

Sir Robert said that reaching the £400 million profits mark after interest was a milestone because it meant British

£170m Irish bid referred

The hotly-contested IR£200 million (£170 million) takeover bid by a consortium for Irish Distillers, the Jameson's whiskey group, has been referred to the Irish Fair Trade Commission, the equivalent of the Monopolies Commission in Britain. However, the bid will not lapse. The IFTC has been asked to report to Mr Albert Reynolds, the Irish Minister for Trade and Commerce, by August 5.

Diamonds are still forever

By Carol Leonard

To the surprise of both De Beers and jewellery retailers around the world, diamond sales have shrugged off the October stock market crash.

The Central Selling Organization, which controls the quantity and value of rough diamonds sold, and which is effectively controlled by De Beers, reported a record 41 per cent increase in sales, from \$1.56 billion (£910.1 million) to \$2.2 billion, during the first six months of 1988.

The increase is higher than the 25 per cent most diamond analysts were predicting.

The figures reflect a 13.5 per cent price increase and the CSO's decision to reduce the quantity and value of diamond allocations during the second half of last year.

"Our biggest market is America and 40 per cent of diamond sales there are made between Thanksgiving and Christmas," said a CSO spokesman. "Our clients weren't sure how sales would be affected by the crash and so we cut back — but Christmas turned out to be much better than anyone had expected."

Sales during the first half of 1988 were also boosted by the strong yen.

US insurance market 'destabilized by foreign Goliath'

Nader makes Lloyd's his new target

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Mr Ralph Nader, the US crusader for consumer rights, yesterday called on the US and British governments to begin regulating Lloyd's of London, which he described as "a foreign Goliath which had destabilized the vast US insurance market".

Mr Nader's press conference was like a scene from the 1970s when the newly organized consumer movement was sweeping across the US. This year, however, he has found a new target in Lloyd's, which he described as a foreign entity which wielded undue control over important aspects of everyday life in America.

As the dominant reinsurance group in the US, Lloyd's has used its largely unregulated power to push up premiums in the property-casualty insurance industry by 200 to 300 per cent in recent years, Mr Nader charged. At the same time, he added, it had caused the arbitrary cancellation of insurance for US day-care centres, Mid-western farmers, small businesses, local swimming pools and other entities which are the core of community life.

Mr Nader's charges are contained in a 154-page report, released yesterday, entitled *Goliath: Lloyd's of London in the US*. It was prepared by Mr Adrian Wilkes, a British barrister, and Miss Joanne Doroshov, a US attorney who monitors the insurance industry.

Lloyd's, because of its size and profits, had been able to dictate higher rates, close important businesses, and generally set the tone of the US insurance industry, the report said.

It accused the group of operating as a "secret club whose arms embraced the world" due to a status that allowed it to run roughshod over other companies.

The report said that Lloyd's enjoyed a regulatory and tax status in both the US and Britain which gave it an important advantage over US companies. It called Lloyd's a corrupt organization, racked by internal fraud scandals which cut into underwriting profits and resulted in big losses to its investors.

Mr Nader accused Lloyd's of precipitating the US commercial insurance crisis of the 1980s by orchestrating an industry programme to raise rates, eliminate pollution coverage for local governments, force US companies to adopt anti-victim policy forms and using its financial and political clout to obtain changes in US civil justice laws.

Congressional officials said that they would study closely the legislative recommendations which urged stronger disclosure laws affecting Lloyd's and other companies.

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Securiguard rides high on rising crime wave

By Michael Clark

The rising crime wave continues to be good news for Securiguard Group, Britain's biggest manned-guarding security group, which yesterday pleased the market with a set of better-than-expected interim figures.

Figures for six months to May 8 showed pre-tax profits had more than doubled at £1.47 million with turnover soaring from £15.46 million to £24.3 million. Earnings growth continues to run at more than 30 per cent a year with earnings a share up by 3.6p at 9.9p.

Mr Alan Baldwin, the chairman, expects this growth to be maintained in the current year but is looking overseas for further expansion. He says the group will fully exploit the introduction of the single European market in 1992.

The group already provides a specialist mailing service operating out of Brussels, undercutting the Royal Mail.

Mr Baldwin says he also wants to expand the group's activities in the US, where it acquired a foothold last year.

Analysts had been looking for pre-tax profits of £3 million for the full year but there are signs they will have to upgrade their estimates. The Securiguard share price responded with a rise of 7p to 19.5p.

Tiphook goes full steam ahead

TEMPUS

Shipping industrial goods round the world hardly ranks as a glamour business, but it certainly generates the profits. Tiphook clearly took the market by surprise when it reported a 155 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £10 million on turnover up 72 per cent to £67.7 million, and the shares responded with a handsome 37p rise to 39.5p.

The question is whether Tiphook can sustain the momentum, and given its plans for expansion, there is every likelihood it will continue to grow at above-average rates.

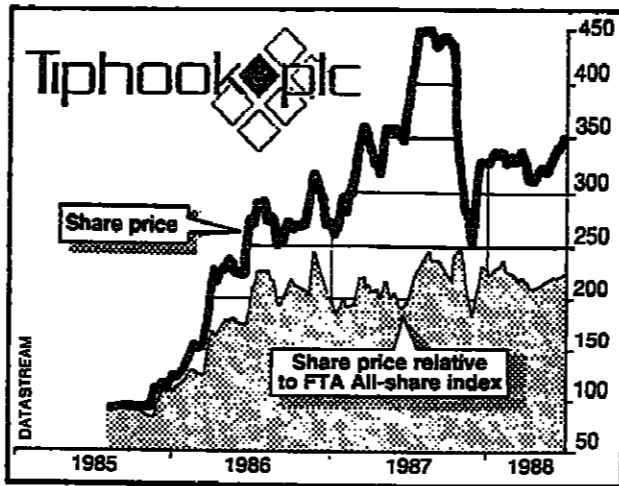
The world container market continues to expand, and although increasing efficiency has restricted the growth in physical containers worldwide, Tiphook's market share has been growing as it sports the youngest and most modern container fleet available. Its trailer rental business similarly has a high quality, relatively new fleet, while its fledgling rail wagon business looks most exciting of all.

At present, wagons are simply costing the group money as it sets up offices in France and West Germany. But with several industrial customers, and three important national railway customers, the business is ready to take off once the Channel tunnel becomes reality.

Last year start-up costs were around the £500,000 mark

and no contribution from this division is expected this year either. However, with containers and trailers still growing strongly, pre-tax profits should grow by about 35 per cent this year to something in excess of £13.5 million.

High levels of capital spending will keep the tax charge low, but the higher number of shares in issue after last year's rights issue means that earnings per share will grow at a slower rate of nearer 30 per cent. Even after today's 37p jump in the share price, the prospective multiple is only 9, a rating which hardly begins to reflect the growth prospects.



Television South

Television South cannot be accused of lacking vision. In one enthralling move, it has banked 1,000 of the best hours of US television produced over the past 20 years, improved its own sales distribution in America (still 70 per cent of the world television market), tied in two leading players in the French market, and unveiled a strategic 3.5 per cent stake in Network Ten, one of the leading Australian tv contractors.

James Gatward, the chairman is not short on courage, either. The £190.5 million he

has agreed to pay for MTM takes the group's gearing above 100 per cent, and not even the combination of two cash generative businesses, earning six times its interest costs, will pull that down much inside the next 12 months.

But this is a deal structured for the medium term, and in particular for 1992, a year circled twice on television boardroom calendars. The advent of the European single market opens up tremendous possibilities, while the IBA franchise renewals pose the threat of annihilation.

MTM is the TVS life assurance policy. By 1992, it will be contributing perhaps 70 per cent of group profits.

This year, it is unlikely that MTM, which will be in for only its three off-season months, will contribute much more than about £2 million to TVS before tax, raising the market projection for the group to about £27 million. Dilution could restrict earnings to 35p a share.

Next year, the combined group is capable of making £47 million, or 41.5p a share, suggesting a p/e multiple of a little under eight at the suspension price. Dealings should resume early in August, and watch for a little weakness. But holders prepared to take the five-year view, like Mary Tyler Moore, who is holding her TVS shares for that period, should not shun their

rights to the convertible. Mr Gatward has been bold, but not rash. MTM's \$120 million debt programme is now in retreat, and, along with the TVS interest bill, is manageable, given the respective cashflows. The franchise risk remains the only real downside, and that risk has been reduced. Mr Gatward deserves support, and should find it if the shares threaten to dip below 300p.

Hogg Robinson

Now that it has been demerged from its insurance-broking parent, Hogg Robinson is flexing its muscles in no uncertain manner. There has been a small price to pay for its rapid growth, but the premium rating on its shares is intact, enabling it to forge ahead with expansion.

The squeeze has been felt particularly in the property services division. Fourteen acquisitions in 16 months has, unsurprisingly, caused the group to reach for the milk of magnesia to ease its indigestion. But a complete reorganization and £500,000 later, it has the back-office systems to cope with 200 estate agency branches — double the number it has at present.

However, the profits from

this division, just £819,000 before tax and interest, disappointed the market which had been looking for between £1.5 million and £2 million. Indeed, this sector made a £300,000 loss in the traditionally weak second half. Few properties are sold in the winter months anyway and Black Monday did the rest.

This year, the pace of acquisitions is unlikely to slow. The group is particularly optimistic about its financial services division where it is looking to make significant investments.

The travel side remains its biggest division, contributing £6.7 million last year. This year, Hogg Robinson expects to benefit from its late booking scheme and from a move, expected this month, into foreign exchange and travellers' cheques. The 1 per cent commission usually charged on foreign exchange transactions, plus the difference on the buy and sell rates, makes for a lucrative business.

The group should make £15.4 million this year, leaving the shares on a prospective multiple of 15. At this level, its paper is good for acquisitions, although with £33 million of net cash, it is not short of resources.

The shares are unlikely to do more than drift in the short-term, but the premium rating is deserved.

Birmingham Mint Group leaps 80% to £4 million

By Martin Waller

Birmingham Mint Group, the electronics and engineering company, boosted its pre-tax profits by 80 per cent to £4.02 million in the year to April 2, with most of the improvement coming from recent acquisitions aimed at enlarging the group from its traditional minting base.

The three biggest purchases during the past 18 months were for shares and the progress of earnings per share was less dramatic, from 18.8p to 21.1p. The final dividend is raised to 4.75p, taking the total up from 6.75p to 7.5p.

Mr Colin Perry, the chairman, said: "We now have a much better quality of profit than we had before the recent acquisitions. Two years ago, profits were about 50 per cent dependent on the original minting business, which is highly volatile."

Electronics and electrical products chipped in 60 per cent of the £3.78 million operating profits. But engineering should be increased by recent contracts to make parts for microwave ovens, which had depressed profits because of start-up costs but which should account for between £4 million and £5 million of turnover in the current year and chip in a good earnings contribution, said Mr Perry.

Germans launch legal action over subsidies to BSC

By Colin Narborough

The West German steel industry yesterday launched legal proceedings over the payment of £930 million in "excessive" and "illegal" subsidies to the state-owned British Steel Corporation.

The move is certain to dampen market enthusiasm for the BSC privatization, expected at the end of this year or early next.

The big private-sector steel mills of the Ruhr — companies such as Thyssen and Krupp — are carrying huge debts built up during the steel crisis, and are furious over Britain's use of public funds to allow BSC to be floated almost debt-free.

A statement issued by the Düsseldorf-based West German Iron and Steel Association said a writ had been submitted to the European Court, charging the European Commission with failing to act to prevent distortions of competition caused by government aid to BSC.

In response to a formal request for action over subsidies against BSC and Finisider, the Italian steel group, Brussels initiated proceedings in May against the Italians for breaches of EEC rules on credit and restructuring aid. However, it rejected the demand for action over BSC.

Dr Ruprecht Vondran, head of the West German Iron and Steel Association, said yesterday it was contrary to law for the Commission to remain inactive, leaving no other course open than a law suit to achieve the necessary "subsidy hygiene" in Europe.

Under article five of the European Iron and Steel Community Treaty, the Commission must ensure the creation of and adherence to conditions of normal competition.

The writ alleges that, since 1983, BSC received £217 million in aid which was not authorized by the Commission — thus making it "illegal" — and was awarded a further £713 million which was not needed to restore viability, thereby constituting "over-subsidization".

The subsidy figures were produced by the Business Administration Institute of the German Iron and Steel Industry and show that the Government lowered BSC's liabilities to just under 12 per cent of its balance sheet total in 1985-86 from 38 per cent in 1980-81.

Dr Vondran stressed that if the Commission had followed its own subsidy code, which says subsidies may not result in distortions of competition and must not change trading conditions against the common interest, it should not have approved nearly £1 billion in aid.

Injunction served in Falcon row

By Carol Ferguson

Hostilities among members of the Falcon Resources board have resurfaced with an injunction issued by Mr Jonathan Rosen and Mr Oliver Jessel, two alternative board members and Falcon's biggest creditors, to prevent Mr Ronnie Monk from representing himself as a director of Falcon.

The case is due to be heard next Tuesday and in the meantime Mr Monk has given an undertaking not to represent himself as a Falcon director.

Mr Monk said he will be counter-proceeding against Mr Jessel and Mr Rosen and their company, VentureLarge, for breach of contract. He is requisitioning an extraordinary meeting where shareholders will be able to decide which faction to support.

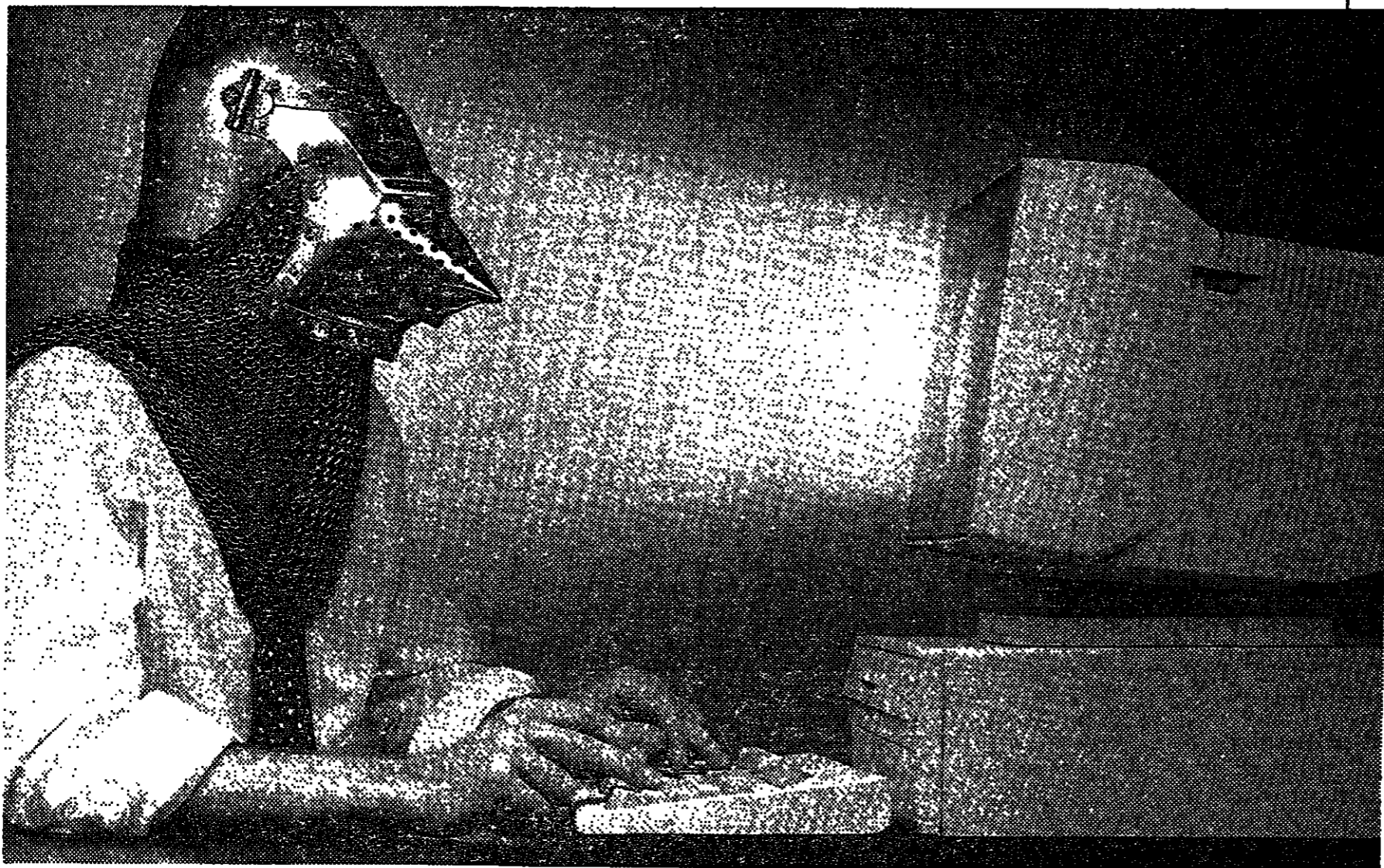
Hong Kong exchange clampdown

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange yesterday ordered a clampdown on the release of price-sensitive information which has been distorting share prices in the Crown Colony.

Mr Robert Fell, the chief executive of the exchange, yesterday wrote to the chairman of the Crown Colony's 285 listed companies, saying he viewed "with great concern" the increasing tendency for price-sensitive stories to appear in the local Press.

He said directors were responsible for making sure that confidentiality is observed during sensitive negotiations and that they should issue an announcement to clarify any situation which might have relevance to significant price movement.



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ALPHA STOCKS

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
ADT 1,142	Costs 424	Land Sec 607	Royal Ind 688
Alloy 1,328	CU 848	Laporte 181	Search 1,488
Al-Lyons 585	Cons Gold 585	LBO 2,091	Sainsbury 2,291
Amrad 578	Cookson 1,568	Lloyd 895	Scott & N 1,322
ASDA 922	Courtaulds 711	Lovito 3,228	Sears 1,782
AS Foods 66	Dalrymple 3,270	Luxon 256	Sedgwick 411
Argyl 1,511	Davey 930	Magnet 65	Small 1,385
BAA 633	Dieme 1,084	MBS 4,127	Smith & N 653
BET 889	ECC 1,174	Manwell Cm 863	Smith WH 3
BTR 2,189	Enterprise 3,918	MEPC 429	Smiths Ind 367
BAT 2,634	Farnell 6,887	Metel Box 2,328	STC 2,841
Bardays 1,031	Fisons 1,053	Midland 1,383	Stan Chart 2,474
Besa 539	Flt Babak 1,261	NavWest 3,073	Strathairn 2,274
Beecham 2,286	Gen Acc 232	Net 886	Sun Alliance 480
Beezer 791	GEC 8,131	Nis Food 605	T & N 1,161
Berford SW 66	Globo 874	PEO 293	Tarmac 2,248
BICC 1,319	Globe Inv 152	Pearl 468	Tata & Lyle 820
Blue Arrow 1,488	Glynco 73	Persimmon 1,017	TSB 1,291
Blue Circle 1,069	Grands 901	Phibston 1,501	Tesco 1,383
BOC 1,413	Grand Met 1,885	Plassey 3,022	Thorn EM 985
Boak 1,488	GUS 'A' 238	Prudential 2,154	Trafalgar 357
BPG 2,577	GRE 142	Reed 546	TUF 1,068
Br Aero 1,676	GKN 284	Rk Hovis 2,858	Ultra 578
Br Airways 3,038	Guinness 995	Rank 234	Unigate 803
Br Comm 71	Hamm 'A' 59	RBC 430	Unilever 597
Br Gas 8,268	Hanson 12,860	Redland 1,073	Unisys 823
Br Petrol 3,851	Hawker 705	Reed 2,250	Unid News 697
Br Telecom 4,180	Hilldown 1,007	Reuners 189	Wellcome 688
Bund 632	Hilltop 482	RMC Sp 695	W&A 303
Burness 1,108	ICI 1,112	RTZ 878	Witton 114
Burnley 794	Inchcape 2,867	R-Royce 5,547	White Pat 3,822
CB&I 2,378	Imperial 1,150	Robinson 'S' 321	Wimpey G 304
Calgony 1,285	Ladbrokes 313	Royal Bank 1,774	Woolworth 1,577
			Scottish page 21

French companies join TVS in £190m purchase of MTM

By Michael Tate
Television South will pay \$320 million (£190.5 million) for MTM Entertainment, the *Hill Street Blues*, *St Elsewhere* and *Mary Tyler Moore Show* production company, and has pulled in two leading French television companies to help pay for it.

Canal Plus, the French pay-television company, and Générale d'Images, a cable television, film library and film production group, will each pay £29.2 million for 10 per cent share stakes in the enlarged TVS group, which plans a name change to TVS Entertainment.

The deal, widely reported a week ago when dealings in TVS shares were halted, is worth £64.8 million to Mary Tyler Moore, the actress-founder who lent her initials to the company. She will take £48.6 million in cash, and a 5.1 per cent stake in the British company, which she has agreed to keep for five years — significantly beyond the 1992 franchise renewal date.

Mr Arthur Price, chief executive with 44 per cent of the MTM equity, collects £62.9 million in cash and a 6.6 per cent stake in TVS, and Mr Mel Blumenthal picks up £38 million, of which a quarter will be in TVS shares. Mr Price, Mr Blumenthal and the only other shareholder, Mr Tom Palmieri, are committed to their TVS stakes for five years.

Shareholders in TVS are being asked to find a further £47.8 million towards the deal, through a convertible preference issue, underwritten by County NatWest. Ordinary shareholders are entitled to at least 124 convertible for every



Arresting acquisition: Mr Gatward, TVS chairman, announcing the MTM purchase yesterday (Picture: James Morgan)

100 held, and convertible loan stock holders to 83.08 new preference for every £100 of stock held. The remaining £38 million will be financed by loans.

The deal creates a unique company with production in the US, the UK and the Republic of Ireland, as well as a UK broadcasting franchise.

It will have MTM's film library, containing more than 1,000 hours of the best television produced in the US, valued at £185 million.

Mr James Gatward, the TVS chairman, yesterday said the deal had been hatched with Mr Price in January, although the two men, friends since they worked together on

the TVS feature film, 92, *Grosvenor Street*, four years ago, had been talking of cross-holdings for much longer.

MTM had planned to go public last autumn but the October crash put paid to stock market interest. TVS moved in and brought in its French backers in a move designed to strengthen the TVS position

in the fast-changing European television industry.

Mr Gatward added TVS had built up a 3.5 per cent share stake in the Australian Network Ten company, Northern Star. He said the purchases had taken place over many months and had been agreed with Mr Rupert Murdoch, who runs Northern Star.

BA in stinging attack on rivals

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

British Airways yesterday stepped up its battle to dominate British and European aviation with a stinging attack on the "double standards" of its competitors.

Lord King of Warrnaby, the chairman, told shareholders at the airline's annual meeting that he was determined BA should become the best and most successful airline in the world, but other airlines in Britain were preventing it from expanding by objecting whenever it tried to fly in competition.

"We may be forgiven for being a little irritated by the double standards of so many who are quick to preach the virtues of competition," he said. "I would like to think that our British competitors

share our readiness to face competition. They may say they do, but when it comes to taking the plunge, they find the water a little chilly."

He then cited examples of how British Midland, Birmingham Executive, Dan Air, Air Europe and Virgin Atlantic had all objected when British Airways applied for new licences.

"We would admire their enterprise more if they had not also sought the revocation of all those of our licences that would provide competition for them," he said.

Although BA has withdrawn its applications to fly a series of domestic routes, it will fight any further moves by the Civil Aviation Authority to force it to drop some services to allow new entrants. "We shall resist arbitrary

substitution; the confiscation from British Airways of the right to fly a particular route in order to give that right to some other airline," Lord King said. "That may make the shareholders of the other airline feel better but the passenger has no wider choice than he had in the first place."

His criticism immediately stung Mr Richard Branson, whose Virgin Atlantic Airways is seeking to have BA removed from the Gatwick to Los Angeles and Gatwick to New York routes, into an angry response.

"We would like to make it absolutely clear that Virgin is not allowed to fly from Heathrow and we therefore believe the fair way forward is for Virgin to fly to Los Angeles and New York from Gatwick and for British Airways to fly from Heathrow. Obviously if

they want to welcome us to Heathrow we would be very happy with that as an alternative but Government policy precludes us from doing so."

Air Europe described Lord King's attack as "outrageous". Mr Charles Powell, the marketing director, said: "While they have a completely protected position at Heathrow, where they can do whatever they like without any fear of competition, the game is hardly equal."

BA, which confirmed a £228 million pre-tax profit in its first year of operation, became the second airline within 24 hours to give a boost to British Aerospace with orders for a fleet of new 64-seat propeller-driven ATP aircraft. British Midland had earlier ordered seven and yesterday BA agreed to lease a further eight.

Higher bid for CASE expected

By Colin Narborough

Mr Peter Burton, chief executive of the British computer networking group, CASE, said yesterday that he is expecting a Canadian rival, Gandalf Technologies to raise its £57 million hostile bid today or tomorrow. He added that the Toronto company would still be the wrong suitor.

CASE was R&D rich, had a strong position in the industry, was solving problems in America, and aimed to stay independent — Gandalf had nothing to offer CASE in product terms, he said.

He said CASE's range included local area networks, packet switching, and transmission resource management — all areas for which the growth trend was clearly upward in the US market.

CASE reported a £2.1 million profit for the year to March, after a £5.4 million loss the previous year. Its last half £3.2 million profit would indicate vigorous recovery. Its shares shed 1p to close at 86p yesterday.

Kalamazoo joint venture

The joint venture between Kalamazoo, the business systems and services group, and Apricot Computers involves the supply by Kalamazoo of software, maintenance, training and printing services, the company announced yesterday.

Meanwhile, Kalamazoo will market the range of Apricot microcomputers. The announcement was prompted by a serious error on the Stock Exchange Topic information service.

COMMENT Gulliver takes up Harris Queensway challenge

Most businessmen with a track record like Mr James Gulliver's would by now be thinking of carpet slippers, knocking a few shots off the golf handicap and generally resting on their laurels. But Mr Gulliver is made of sterner stuff. He may well need to be.

He has a man-sized task on his hands after paying an apparently bountiful price for the privilege of taking on Harris Queensway. The £450 million offered by the Gulliver-led consortium looks like an expensive entry ticket to several years of hard labour. It represents no less than 43 times last year's earnings. For that, disenchanted shareholders in HQ owe thanks to Mr Gulliver, Charterhouse, County NatWest and the other advisers for a deal that should satisfy everyone. There is a large cash element for those who have had enough of the troubled carpets and furnishing operation, which apparently includes the biggest shareholder GUS, and a good deal of hope for the rest.

The final solution to the HQ problem is not without some good vibrations. After all, the previous Charterhouse retail rescue — of Woolworth — has been a resounding success. But the task this time may prove more difficult. It depends firstly, and straightforwardly, on a de-gearing exercise to shed some of the £200 million debt mountain with which the new company is to be saddled. Gulliver has proved himself to be a past master at this particular game in one takeover after another while at the helm of Argyll group. Harveys is going to Sir Philip Harris for £24 million including debt. Poundstretcher may realize £75 million and more contentiously, Hamleys could fetch, say, £30 million. Gulliver is also expert at chopping spare assets and working capital out of a business. Given a fair wind the balance sheet may be transformed within a year.

But this is just the first squeeze of the lemon which always yields most juice. Far more difficult is the crucial and slower process of repositioning the jaded HQ furniture business in an increasingly competitive market place. This will hinge upon skills which are not Gulliver's but those of the executive team he needs to build around him. Before the de-gearing is accomplished, the new company's shares will be vulnerable to further stock market setbacks. But Gulliver's own incentive package, which could yield several millions, is reassuringly linked to share price performance. Given the track record at Fine Fare, Oriol Foods and Argyll, shareholders should probably back the man.

Vain hopes

Following Barclays' lead on Tuesday — when it raised its mortgage rate from 9.75 to 11.1 per cent — it looks as if, give or take a little undercutting here and there, this will

represent the level of mortgage rates to take us into the autumn.

The official hope is that a rise in mortgage rates of a little over one percentage point will take the heat out of the housing boom.

It looks to be a vain hope. Nationwide-Anglia, in its second-quarter survey of house prices predicts price rises for 1988 as a whole of 20-25 per cent in London, rising to 30 per cent in the outer commuting area of the capital and more than 35 per cent in East Anglia.

Against capital gains of this magnitude, an 11 per cent mortgage rate, some of which will be offset by tax relief, hardly looks like a serious constraint. The Treasury is undoubtedly concerned about house price increases, not least the knock-on effects they have on earnings and competitiveness. But it could be that rising house prices — while indicating inflationary pressures in the economy — may also absorb some of those pressures. If house prices stopped rising abruptly, the result could be higher, not lower, general inflation in the economy.

DTI's stamp duty

The statements on the Barlow Clowes affair by Lord Young and his junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, Mr Francis Maude, are discouraging news for investors in Barlow Clowes International. BCI is the Gibraltar arm of Barlow Clowes and it is here where investors face the greatest potential losses — more than £100 million. Lord Young's line on the subject suggests, that if Sir Godfrey Le Quesne's inquiry finds the Government at fault in its licensing of Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers, the UK end, it will provide compensation only for investors in BCGM.

Here, the losses appear at first sight to be small, possibly as little as £2 million. The Gibraltar investors would be left to pursue what remedies they could through the courts, against their financial advisers, the DTI and any other suitable target.

In reality, the distinction between the two groups of investors is not as clear-cut as the Government would like to maintain. Many, if not most, investors put their money with Barlow Clowes — UK and offshore — on the recommendation of an intermediary. How many of these would have dared recommend to their clients an investment in an offshore fund run by an outfit which had no DTI licence — or worse still — had applied for one and been rejected? Whether it likes it or not, the DTI's stamp of approval spread far wider than investment in the United Kingdom.

Oil price revival set to head off Opec emergency meeting

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Dr Subroto, Opec's new general secretary, is considering whether to call an emergency meeting of the cartel.

Dr Subroto, who is regarded as having been the most effective of Opec's presidents while he was Indonesian oil minister, is preparing to visit all member countries to discuss the current oil price collapse.

He will also visit non-Opec oil-producing countries, but any call on Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, will be a courtesy visit.

Dr Philip Morgan, who heads the oil team at the broker SG Warburg, said yesterday that oil companies could take advantage of the lower price and start building up stocks with confidence that it cannot fall much further.

Prices recovered almost 50 cents a barrel yesterday, with North Sea Brent being quoted at just under \$15.

Any longer term price revival means Opec will be able to avoid calling an emergency meeting and announce the next full meeting will be on schedule on November 21 in Vienna.

Although current world prices are far below the Opec target range of \$18 a barrel, and many Opec crudes are having difficulty in finding customers, even at prices of under \$12, many traders believe that the market has bottomed out.

They take the view that the leading oil refiners have been out of the market for so many days and have drawn on stock that they will have to come back in as buyers this week.

In the US, Elders, the monitoring service used by many Wall Street oil traders, has pointed out that lower oil prices in the US at present — when demand from motorists is at its peak — are anti-inflationary. In future, the oil producers will only be able to offer prices based on a formula taking into account the price that the products from crude oil achieve.

Such a move would mean an increase in net-back deals, the formula devised by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani when he was oil minister of Saudi Arabia and Opec's dominant character.

Such deals effectively freeze out of the market many of the smaller producers who cannot match the terms offered by major contract suppliers who have customers who are also refiners.

World Bank gives warning on growth

By Colin Narborough

The industrialized and developing countries face slow growth and uncertainty in the medium term — despite optimism about the short-term outlook — unless governments take fresh action to reduce trade and fiscal deficits and restructure economic policies, according to the World Bank. This Washington-based bank's *World Development*

Report 1988, which is published today, predicts that if opportunities for sustaining and increasing growth are missed, the developing world's chances for growth will be lost.

Mr Barber Conable, the World Bank's president, writes in a foreword that three interdependent policy challenges need to be addressed. The industrial countries

must reduce their external payments imbalances, or face the serious risk of recession and financial upheaval, the developing countries must persevere in restructuring their domestic economic policies to gain credit-worthiness and growth and transfers of net resources from developing countries have to be trimmed.

The report's high estimate of per capita growth foresees

the industrial economies growing at a real average annual rate of 2.6 per cent in the period to 1995, compared with 3.6 per cent for the developing world.

Sub-Saharan Africa is only seen managing 0.7 per cent.

In the absence of reform, growth rates of only 1.8 per cent, 2.2 per cent and nil per cent are expected for the respective groups.

Parting shot at Orion

Redundancies and sackings are seldom happy affairs. But few, even in these recently unsettled times, can have been as bitter as the departing and departed staff from Orion Royal Bank. Indeed, so aggrieved are they at the way they have been treated that several dozen of them have, I hear, clubbed together to buy a special present for their former chairman and chief executive John Sanders. The gesture is not as contradictory as it might sound. For with £250 thus raised, they have bought a scholarship to be awarded in his name at Waubensee Community College, a little-known educational establishment in Sugar Grove, Illinois. According to the 15 investment trust fund managers due to walk out the door tomorrow — they too have been made redundant — the scholarship will be awarded for "prudent business management." Should two students tie for the award, the qualifier will be an essay, not to exceed one paragraph, on "the contribution of the Royal Bank of Canada to the international capital markets." Sanders will apparently be made officially aware of the presentation upon receipt of a plaque via Friday's internal post.

Poulton source
So this was the exciting deal that Christopher Poulton, managing director of the mergers and acquisitions department at CL-Alexanders

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Making economies

In the aftermath of Big Bang, economists in the City have been losing out. According to a survey by the Society of Business Economists, the salaries of economists employed by securities houses has risen by just 1.6 per cent during the past year, against a rise of 32 per cent the year before. And, far from earning those much talked about six-figure sal-

aries, the median is now £31,000. But it seems that what they don't receive in salary, they can often make up for in fringe benefits. The survey revealed that while the average value of such perks is just £3,000, nearly 15 per cent of respondents enjoyed benefits worth more than £10,000, with one economist claiming £120,000.

Laing & Cruckshank had been heralding... The French group BSN, defying its native gourmet reputation, was the surprise buyer of HP Foods — makers of HP and Daddies Sauce — from Hanson in a £199 million deal. Poulton's excitement can be

explained by the fact that he was the instigator. It is also significant that ALC's French parent Crédit Lyonnais provided the contact — the first ALC deal to date in which it has played a key role. Whatever will the French connection lead to next — Scottish & Newcastle brown ale?



"He works from home these days"

Plus ça change

Everybody already knew it — but now Sotheby's has come up with definitive proof. Insider dealing has been around since the early 18th century at least. The "scandalous trade" by which stockbrokers earn their living, was exposed as long ago as 1719 in a book which must have sent shivers through the City when it was first published. The book, *The Anatomy of Exchange-Alley; Or a System of Stock Jobbing*, by one Daniel Defoe, cost just a shilling then, but Sotheby's expects it to fetch at least £500 at its New Bond Street sale on July 21. It describes stock jobbing as being "knavish in its practice, bristling with cheats and draws innocent families into their snares." It goes on to expose "their raising and spreading of false news to influence the rise and fall of stocks." And as you turn the pages it becomes even more outspoken, with stockbrokers accused of "joining with traitors in raising and propagating treasonable rumours to terrify the most eminent persons." It says, are involved in carrying out the pernicious trade and time had come to "regulate or suppress them." How little times have changed.

Who said lawyers don't have a sense of humour? A riddle spotted in the latest edition of *The Lawyer* magazine poses the question: What do you do once you have read the Financial Services Act and made sense of its provisions? Answer: Read it again — you can't have read it properly.

Carol Leonard

MARSHALLS HALIFAX PLC

Building and construction materials and specialised engineering

Yet another record year

Sales —	£105.16m up 21%
Profit before tax —	£13.12m up 36%
Dividend for year —	7.25p up 16%
Earnings per share —	20.77p up 31%

'Management accounts for the current year show profit to be ahead of budget'

David R Marshall Chairman

For a copy of the report and accounts please contact the secretary
MARSHALLS HALIFAX PLC, HALL LINGS, SOUTHWORAM, HALIFAX HX3 9TW TELEPHONE 0422 64521

The contents of this statement, for which the directors of Marshall's Halifax PLC are thoroughly responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by an authorized person. Past performance is not necessarily an indication of future performance.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Baker Harris gain lifts fears of crash damage

Fears that the stock market crash might have damaged the prospects of Baker Harris Saunders, the City of London estate agent, were demolished when the group unveiled a 70 per cent surge in pretax profits for the year to end-April, at £3.42 million.

Payout raised Headlam take by Hollas over backed

Hollas, the Manchester textile group, boosted pre-tax profits from £1.86 million to £2.47 million in the year to end-March, lifting earnings per share by 1p to 5.8p.

Expansion at Kunick

Kunick, the leisure and nursing homes group, has made three further acquisitions within its two core businesses at a cost of £2.15 million. It is buying Peter Simper (Eastern), which operates 750 amusement machines, for £1.15 million.

Games distributor merges in pursuit of USM listing

By Martin Waller

Q. What proportion of Icelandic households owns a set of Trivial Pursuit?

A. About one in three because of the long Nordic winters - the game's highest market penetration in the world.

and founder, Mr John Pryke, will have a paper holding in Cowells worth £19 million.

Of these shares 1.5 million will be offered to existing Cowells shareholders, netting the vendors £2.4 million cash.

commercial director, conceded that one reason for the reverse takeover was the possible problems his company would have in gaining an immediate quote on the USM.

Three-month figures to end-March, drawn up for the reverse takeover, show pre-tax profits of £909,000 on turnover of £12.55 million and forward orders for Trivial Pursuit alone of 2.4 million.

In 1985 Mr Pryke persuaded Horn Abbot, the American publisher, to give him the franchise to distribute Trivial Pursuit in Europe.

ANZ Banking in £213m rights issue to expand

From Richard Bartley, Sydney

The ANZ Banking Group yesterday announced an Aus\$457 million (£212.55 million) rights issue, mainly for expansion.

The one-for-six issue follows those of Australia's two other leading banks. On May 18, National Australia Bank (NAB) made an Aus\$603 million issue, and next day Westpac Banking Corporation had one of Aus\$740 million.

ANZ's rights is at Aus\$3.80 per share against yesterday's closing price of Aus\$4.64. Shareholders may pay in full on September 9, or half then and the balance before September 10, 1990.

Mr Will Bailey, the managing director, said: "Another outlay of this issue is to increase the group's capital-to-assets ratio having regard to the strengthening in the capital standards required of banks worldwide."

issued last December by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). These uniformly define capital and assets, and set minimum capital-asset ratios. It is understood that the minimum acceptable to the BIS, is 1:12, against Australia's 1:20.

However, analysts said ANZ needs extra funds to match its competitors' international expansion. They cited NAB, which last year paid almost Aus\$1 billion for the Clydesdale Bank, Northern Bank (Ireland) and Northern Bank.

Mr John Sparlins's Adelaide Steamship Company group is believed to hold 9 per cent of ANZ, and faces a large outlay to maintain its percentage stake. It must pay Aus\$33 million to maintain its 7 per cent Westpac stake, and Aus\$90 million to take up the rights on its 15 per cent of NAB.

EEC urged to co-ordinate interest rates

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Francis Maude, the Corporate Affairs Minister, yesterday called for greater European co-ordination on interest rate changes as a way of fostering financial and monetary co-operation between EEC countries.

Clarifying Britain's stance on the single European market, after the Prime Minister's rejection last week of a European central bank and a single

EEC currency, he told MEPs in Strasbourg that it was better to concentrate on areas where progress could be made rather than pursue "grand ideas" for a central bank.

As to the need for a single currency after 1992, he said the EEC already had a "common currency" in the European Currency Unit, an artificial unit based on a basket of real currencies.

"We should be looking actively at ways to encourage

greater use of the private ECU and improving co-ordination of financial and monetary policy, for example on interest rate changes," he said.

Despite press reports, saying Britain was "isolated" on EEC policy, he said the Government's commitment to the single European market was "clear and unequivocal".

While Britain's commitment on some issues seemed to be measured by its ability to say yes, the Government

needed to be clear on what it was agreeing to before saying yes on monetary co-operation, merger control and tax approximation, Mr Maude stressed.

He said the effects of proposals on Community-wide merger control were by no means clear. The Government had a number of real concerns about the issues and objectives, and wanted the principle to be clearer before agreeing to it.

New regulations cause 23% setback at RWT

By Geoffrey Foster

Final quarter profits at RW Toothill, the furniture manufacturer, were hit hard by the Government's draft regulations on upholstery flammability.

The regulations - unexpectedly implemented by the Department of Trade and Industry in January this year - resulted in a disappointing 23 per cent profits contraction for the year to end-March.

Pretax profits fell from £329,219 to £253,264, with

earnings per share down to 22.81p from 31.08p.

An increased final dividend of 5.39p, however, has been declared, making a total of 8.99p for the year, compared with 8.75p last year.

Shares of RWT held steady at 385p despite the results. Beaverfoam, the plastic foam to sofa-bed maker, holds a near-13 per cent stake and could decide to take over the reins.

BRITISH STEEL RESULTS.

Another year of increased profits.

Table with 4 columns: YEAR ENDED, 2 APRIL 1988, 28 MARCH 1987, % INCREASE. Rows include TURNOVER (£4116m vs £3461m, +19%), PROFIT FOR THE YEAR (£410m vs £178m, +130%), and DELIVERIES (12.1m vs 10.3m tonnes, +18%).

"The past year has been a momentous one for the British Steel Corporation. The very encouraging improvement which was reported last year has been maintained and profits have substantially increased.

"The present profit position of British Steel is the reward for the radical measures taken over past years to rationalise and restructure the operations of the business, allied with benefits increasingly coming through from well directed investment in plant and equipment, which have together given us a more competitive cost base. We have been able to take advantage of the buoyancy of demand during the past year for many of our key products, particularly in the United Kingdom market, where the success of the Government's economic and

financial policies has been reflected in recent growth in the United Kingdom economy appreciably above the European Community average. Our production has therefore been higher than for several years, backed by consistently good levels of plant performance.

"That British Steel has achieved the business success it has is due to the efforts of all who are and have been involved in it. A very important contribution has been made by the extent to which we in British Steel have linked pay increases to productivity and to other improvements."

Signature of Sir Robert Scholey

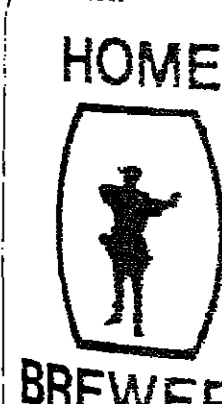
Sir Robert Scholey, Chairman, British Steel.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Table of London Traded Options with columns for Series, Call, Put, and various dates. Includes sub-sections for FT-SE INDEX and RECENT ISSUES.

RECENT ISSUES

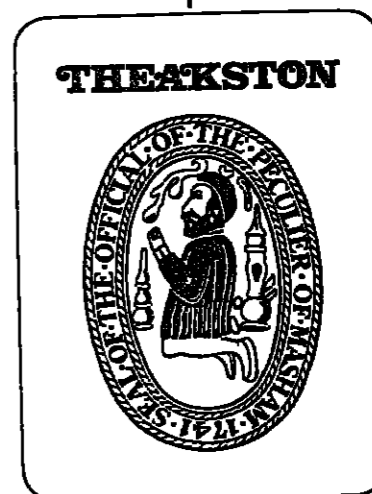
Table of Recent Issues with columns for EQUITIES, RIGHTS ISSUES, and BASE LENDING RATES. Includes entries like Accl, Balica New, and various bank rates.





Yet again, S & N has cause to celebrate:

- ★ Profit growth at Home Brewery has comfortably exceeded early expectations.
- ★ Matthew Brown and Theakston, last year's successful acquisitions, have shown early and exciting potential.
- ★ Thistle Hotels, another year of dynamic progress.
- ★ Any one of these successes alone would have been exciting. That they all come together means S & N packs a lot of



Wallop!

Financial Highlights

	52 weeks to 1.5.88	53 weeks to 3.5.87	Year on Year increase
Turnover (£m)	911.5	827.5	10%
Operating Profit (£m)	127.4	103.1	24%
Pre-tax Profit (£m)	113.1	90.3	25%
Earnings per share	20.3p	18.3p	11%
Dividend per share	9.14p	7.95p	15%

Pre-tax Profit up by 25.2%

Final Dividend up by 16.2%



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Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your share price movements on this page daily...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Moderate gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 4. Dealings end July 15. Contango day July 18. Settlement day July 25.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000 CLAIMS required for 48 points ACCUMULATOR £114,000

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

UNDATED

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

INDEX LINKED

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

BREWERIES

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

BUILDING, ROADS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

FINANCE, LAND

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

FOODS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

CINEMAS, TV

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

DRAPEY, STORES

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

E-K

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

L-R

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

S-Z

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

INSURANCE

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

LEISURE

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

MINING

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

OILS, GAS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

PROPERTY

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

SHIPPING

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

SHOES, LEATHER

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

TEXTILES

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

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TOBACCOS

Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, % Chg, P/E

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, including columns for company names, bid/offer prices, and other financial metrics. It is organized into multiple columns and rows, covering various investment categories.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table listing unlisted securities with columns for company names, prices, and other details. It includes various financial instruments and their market values.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with columns for trust names, prices, and other financial data. It provides a comprehensive overview of available investment options.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the name 'Tony M...' and other promotional text.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies, including Sterling, Euro, and others, with columns for currency names and rates.

MONEY MARKETS

Table detailing money market rates, including discount rates and other financial indicators, with columns for rate types and values.

THIRD MARKET

Table listing third market trading data, including various financial instruments and their market performance.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table listing London financial futures contracts, including various derivatives and their current market prices.

Small advertisement at the bottom right corner of the page, featuring the name 'Man...' and other text.

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

July 7, 1988

Tony McBurnie, director-general of the Institute of Marketing, plots the route to the top in today's new atmosphere

People often ask me which discipline best equips managers for the chief executive's chair. First, we should look at the chief executive's real role and the international business environment in which the company operates. Any chief executive's prime role is to establish the culture, strategy, priorities and organization necessary for the company to make most effective use of its assets, within the context of the business environment in which it is operating.

Because of our history during the past two centuries, there is a lack of competitive culture in the UK compared with Japan, the United States and West Germany, where they have not had the benefit of the British educational and social attitudes.

The overall business environment has changed dramatically in 100 years, and particularly since the Second World War. About 200 years ago Britain led the industrial revolution, with an emphasis on technological and manufacturing development to produce an ever-increasing volume of products to meet the demand from the new personal and industrial consumers in both Britain and what was essentially a captive Empire market.

Greater production was the order of the day and continued through until the recession of the late 1920s and early 1930s. Then, before any major reorientation of business thinking was implemented, the demands and destructions of the last war left the UK and much of the industrialized world in a chronic under-supply situation, with the emphasis once more on the need for manufacturing output to meet post-war shortages and pent-up demand.

In the past 30 years considerable change of emphasis has taken

place, with the spotlight and orientation of management moving from manufacturing through finance, taxation, selling and industrial relations, to the cost-cutting and labour-shedding rationalization period of the late 1970s and early 1980s as companies strove to survive and combat increasingly successful international competitors.

However, accountants did take full advantage of the changed environment, particularly when companies struggled in the 1970s with high inflation rates and severe cost escalation; and also in the early 1980s when cost-cutting and working capital reductions became the order of the day.

But it also bred an inward-looking, short-term return, rationalization-inclined culture, which became increasingly inappropriate for the highly competitive, sophisticated market environment in which British companies found themselves.

Since the war many British companies, even entire industries, have been decimated as very aggressive foreign competitors met the needs of much more discriminating customers with better-quality, higher-added-value products and services, supported by well thought-through market strategies and service operations.

These pressures increased dramatically as the world recession began to bite at the end of the 1970s with most companies concentrating their survival efforts on improved manufacturing efficiency, increased productivity, cost-cutting and reduced manning levels to achieve a welcome improvement in profitability and become more cost-competitive than they had been for years.

However, only a minority of British companies - ICI, Jaguar and BA - translated these improvements into market-place

The chief executive's role in marketing is the crucial one in British business



advantages and competed aggressively in the international arena. Most did not increase and have not increased sales volume or market share. Now, in many cases, with rising costs, particularly labour, and little real scope for further productivity and cost reduction gains, profits are beginning to level off and decline. Rationalization proposals are back again on board agendas.

Together, these factors constitute British industry's Achilles heel, which has been confirmed by the Confederation of British Industry and the National Economic Development Office and other inquiries - namely inadequate understanding, orientation and competence in the market-place.

Indeed, a few years ago, research showed that two-thirds of British companies admit they are not good at marketing, do not have clearly defined market strategies and objectives, and do not use basic marketing disciplines such as market research, new product design and development or consultancy. It is perhaps fortunate, although sad, that the lack of any other major route to profit improvement, has now concentrated the minds of many chief executives on their market-place and how to exploit it, probably for the first time.

Increasingly they are seeking

and responding to the assistance that is available to enhance their personal understanding of the critical influence of marketing on their business and to develop the marketing strategies necessary to adapt to and exploit their particular market environment.

It is significant that research indicates the most consistently successful companies are market-driven, and are led by chief executives with a strong personal conviction about the critical importance of the market-place.

These are not surprising findings, as a company's ultimate success or failure must depend on customers choosing to purchase that firm's products or services in preference to a competitor's. Orientating the company towards meeting customers' changed needs and providing something better than competitors is fundamental to any business, but it will happen only if the chief executive stimulates such a commitment throughout the company.

Being marketing-orientated does not mean having a marketing department. It is an attitude of mind that accepts there is no business until a customer buys and therefore the whole orientation of the company has to be

towards achieving this. Many companies do not have a specific marketing department. The whole organization is it. Indeed, a strong marketing department can sometimes mean that the rest of the organization feels it does not need to be concerned.

But whatever the structure, the critical influence on whether the company is or is not market-orientated has to be the chief executive. He sets the culture, defines the strategy and drives the business. British chief executives tend to be heavily single-discipline rather than rounded businessmen, and have arrived in the position because the company needed a particular skill at a particular time. During the past 40 years these particular skills needs varied as we have seen, but what was ignored in the UK was the overriding influence of a changing international market-place and increasingly aggressive competitors.

When Ted Levitt demonstrated US corporate shortsightedness to its changing market environment, in *Marketing Myopia* more than 20 years ago, he assumed that companies were at least looking at their market-place, albeit in a blinkered way. Unfortunately, in the UK even this was not the case. Many British companies were looking at only individual elements of the business and often

the chief executive had little, if any, real interest or direct involvement in the market-place or with its customers.

With a generation of business school-trained chief executives now coming through, and a decade of intense competition throwing up entrepreneurs who can handle it, the situation in UK companies is changing quickly and dramatically. However, there are still thousands of companies with chief executives who do not understand marketing thinking and are not comfortable in a customer environment.

To overcome this the Institute of Marketing has taken initiatives itself and with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Environment Department, the National Economic Development Office, the Confederation of British Industry and other organizations, to provide marketing briefings, workshops, counselling and consultancy. The response from chief executives to these initiatives has been very positive, as has their reaction to the content of them. One can only wonder why they have not acted sooner.

Last year the Institute of Marketing commissioned a study into the background and orientation of chief executives in *The Times* book of top 1,000 companies. The results were very

interesting and showed that quite dramatic change was taking place:

- 64 per cent spent more time on marketing and selling aspects of their business than on any other activity;
- 74 per cent considered they were locked into mature or declining markets;
- 76 per cent considered the competition was going to get tougher;
- 46 per cent were seeking to expand into new markets in the next five years, twice the figure for the past five years;
- 57 per cent had experience in marketing, again almost twice the level of seven years ago, compared with 43 per cent for production and 31 per cent for finance.

In the recently published *Marketing Edge*, which distilled the critical factors for any company to be successful in a competitive market environment, the chief executive's orientation and commitment was shown as one of the most important.

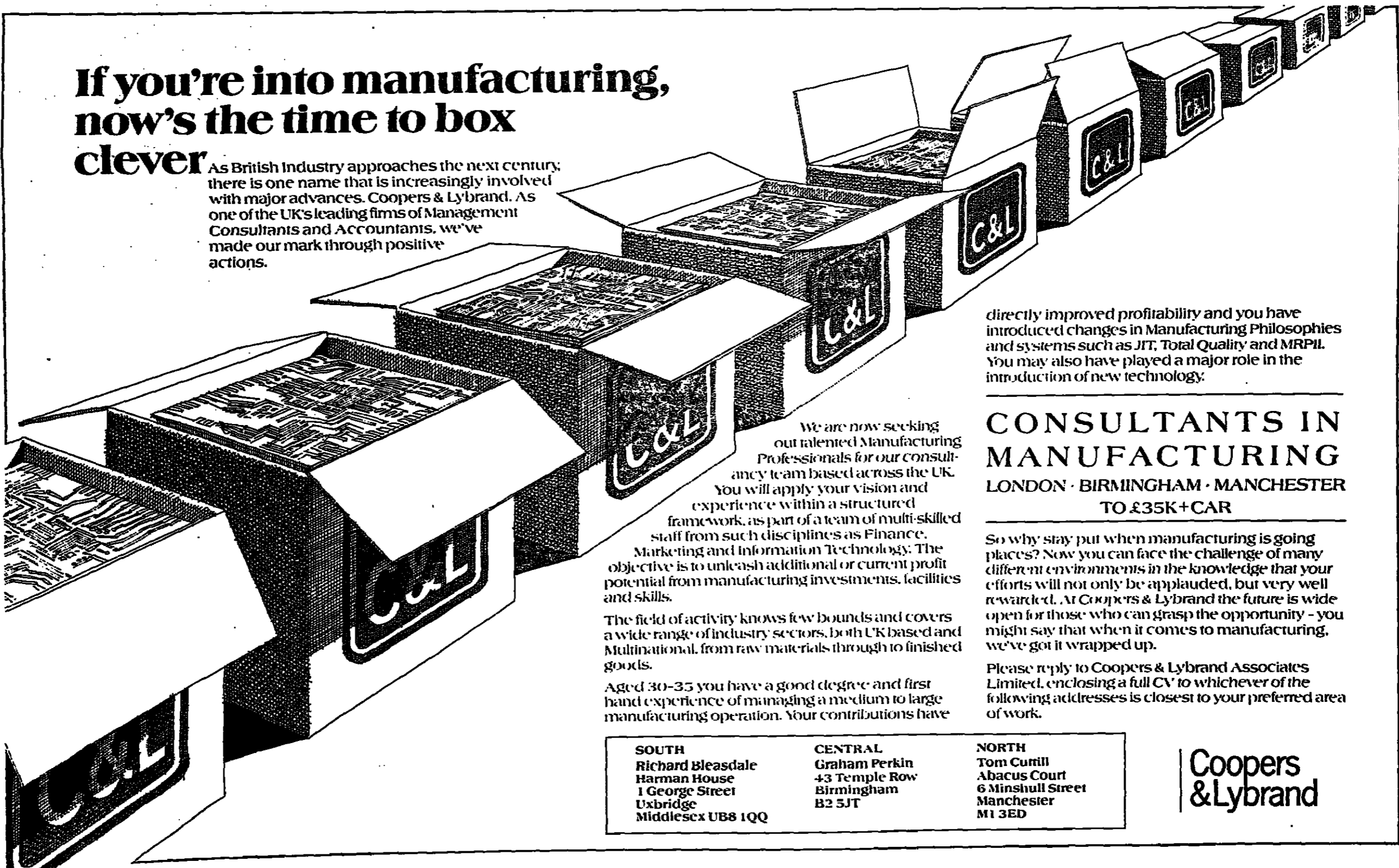
British companies have arrived, via a very tortuous route, at the basic business truth which Adam Smith emphasized two centuries ago in *The Wealth of the Nations* that the market-place determines whether or not a company is successful. What he could have added was that chief executives determine whether or not their company will act on that basic business truth, to take full advantage of the international market opportunities now opening up for British companies.

Never has the chief executive's involvement in marketing been more crucial to the company's prosperity, and never has the chief executive's chair beckoned more strongly to marketing trained and orientated managers.

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The appointment would be for a period of 5 years initially with a salary range £17,380-£22,850. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 29 July 1988) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/7633.

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Requirements:

You will need to be under 36, have 4 years' relevant experience. We are specially interested in people whose English is flawless and who have a high level of proficiency in typing. Candidates (m/f) should not therefore be put off by the requirement that they need to possess some knowledge of a second official language of the European Communities (such as French).

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Full details and the obligatory application form may be obtained on request in writing preferably on a postcard (ref. Official Journal of the E.C. no C 165 of 24 June 1988 - open competition no. C) 86/88) from the Press and Information Office of the Commission of the European Communities: 8, Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT; 4, Canal Road, Cardiff CF1 9SG.

Please note: the final date for posting applications is 10 August 1988.

* this limit may be increased, notably for persons who have had to interrupt their work to look after a young child.

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, L-2925 LUXEMBOURG

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An advanced degree is desirable, but practical work experience is weighted equally. We offer challenging work, opportunity for substantial professional growth, and significant rewards based on performance. Relocation is typically not necessary. We work at client sites during the week, returning home each weekend.

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Candidates should be in their mid to late 20s, preferably graduates, with a recognised accounting qualification and a demonstrable record of success in substantial commercial businesses well regarded for organisation and management. The Company has a fast moving and innovative style which calls for creative and imaginative individuals who are tough, resilient and able to work under pressure.

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The company's plans call for recruitment to be complete by September and applicants should send a detailed resume to Sarah Shiers. In accordance with established practice no names will be released to our client without the prior consent of candidates.

MRD

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director

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Candidates who must be nationals of one of the E.E.C. Member States, must have full legal training evidenced by a University degree and a thorough knowledge of Community law. They will be expected to be able to direct and coordinate the work of a sizeable department and have a good knowledge of the problems of legal research, legal documentation and the running of a law library. Solid experience in relevant areas of activity is necessary.

Candidates must have a thorough knowledge of one, a very good knowledge of a second and a good knowledge of a third official language of the European Communities. Knowledge of additional official languages will be taken into consideration.

Candidates are requested to apply using a form of application obtainable at the Information Office of the E.C. - 8, Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT, and to address their applications with a full c.v. and all other relevant documentation before 30 September 1988, to the Registrar of the Court of Justice of the E.C., Kirchberg, L-2925 Luxembourg. For further information please telephone: 4303-4671 (Luxembourg).

THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN LUXEMBOURG

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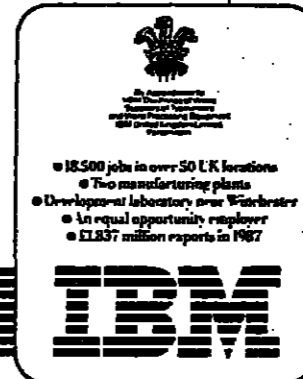
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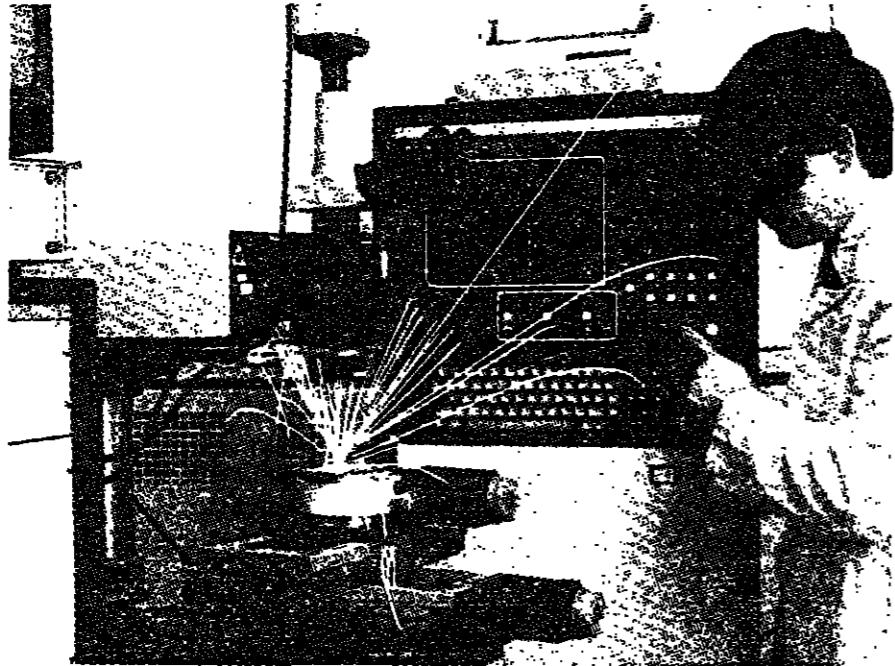
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HORIZONS

British firms are now taking the training initiative, reports Sally Watts

After lengthy lamentations about untrained British managers, plans are in hand for formal training and accreditation at all levels. The two working parties of the Council for Management Education and Development (CMED) concerned with qualifications last month made recommendations which could form the basis of a consultative document which would be the first step towards giving all managers the opportunity to achieve professional status.

Bob Reid, chief executive of Shell UK and chairman of CMED, foresees benefits to staff — in terms of increasing confidence and status mobility; to potential entrants, who are more interested in training and development rather than how much they will be paid; to industry, which will achieve higher standards by integrating work and learning; and to business education, by taking management teachers out of their classrooms and into real-life situations, mirroring the mutual exchange that has already occurred in technology.

The story begins with major reports which identified a depressing standard of training for British managers and which led Lord Young, in a speech to the National Economic Development Council, to say: "It cannot be right that over one-third of our middle managers have had no management training since starting work... that only one-fifth of all our managers have degrees or professional qualifications of any sort, compared with 63 per cent in West Germany and 85 per cent in the USA".

He then issued a challenge: "I want to find 100 leading companies to start the crusade. And then 100 more. Give us the benefit of your experience." Chief executives were urged, as an essential business strategy, to develop the talents of all their managers.

The result was the Management Charter Initiative (MCI) from which will grow a Chartered Institute of Management, with a Royal Charter and provision for men and women to qualify as "chartered managers" through formal training linked with sound practical experience.

The reasoning behind this revolutionary move is that management should be a profession in its own right, with nationally-recognised qualifications like those of accountants and engineers. According to the MCI, at least 10 per cent of undergraduates aim to qualify as chartered accountants, not generally because they want to work as such, but because this is the only recognised professional qualification for a business career.

A further component will be a code of practice to foster high standards of management and business skills.

The MCI, which will operate through a series of regional and local networks, already has the backing of some 350 major organizations, with active support from the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), the British Institute of Management and the Foundation for

Qualifying for a new status

Management Education. Yet CMED, which runs MCI, was formed less than a year ago. Small wonder that Mrs Thatcher has commended the Initiative's "vigour and commitment".

Shell UK, Nat West, IBM, ICI, Marks & Spencer, Unilever and Jaguar are among leading companies involved. CMED has three working parties. The first, under the chairmanship of John Banham, director of the CBI, is looking at the overall framework, including business and education links; the second, led by Derek Hornby, chairman of Rank



Derek Hornby: Investigating charter membership for graduate recruits

Xerox is investigating charter membership for graduate recruits; and the third, under Len Peach, chief executive of the National Health Service, is studying how to introduce charter membership for non-graduate staff.

Managers will progress through three grades — associate, member and fellow — while qualifications will be based on three academic standards equal to a certificate, a diploma, and the Master of Business Administration degree.

The certificate — which it is hoped other professional bodies will incorporate into their training programmes — will eventually be for new management entrants, both non-graduates and graduates, except those whose degree is in business studies. Until the backlog of unqualified people is cleared, this first stage will probably be open to all staff lacking formal qualifications.

The new initiative comes at a time when entry routes to management education are becoming much more flexible.

Professor Andrew Thomson, dean of the Open University School of Management, is committed to an open entry

policy. He will introduce an MBA in January and although this would usually be limited to graduates (who will have direct entry) non-graduates will be able to enrol via the diploma route.

Prof Thomson, a CMED member, explains: "Diploma courses are geared to middle-management functions while the MBA is more of a strategic skills course for people within sight of senior management. We are providing a basis for previously ignored managers who want to start broadening their experience."

A survey of his students shows that 15 per cent are in senior management, 35 per cent in middle, and 30 per cent in junior, with nine per cent at supervisory level.

Another move towards greater flexibility has been pioneered by the Council for National Academic Awards. Since 1986, through the Credit Accumulation Transfer Scheme (CATS), it has enabled people to use work experience and in-house and other courses by giving them a degree or other qualification. This has reduced, generally by a third, the time taken to qualify.

Today, 20 companies take part in CATS. Oxford Polytechnic and W. H. Smith, for example, operate a scheme in which staff (not necessarily graduates) can use in-company training towards an MBA.

Dr Derek Pollard, who heads the CATS unit and also belongs to CMED working parties concerned with qualifications, reports that a recent project has been to invite seven colleges to produce schemes for an initial management award. These seven — Glasgow College of Technology, New College, Durham, and the polytechnics of Central London, Bristol, Leicester, North Staffordshire and Sheffield — have come up with proposals in conjunction with major local employers.

Mr Reid favours the idea of work-related MBAs — already operational in his own company, where managers can develop their skills in tandem with their studies — and of wider access to this qualification, via a foundation course.

He says: "We want a comprehensive, intelligible, structure, for people entering management to see how they can move forwards. Middle managers will be motivated to go out and do something about their own development."

"Individuals can get stranded in industries that die; senior managers see the business environment changing and need to have ownership of their own potential. And employers will benefit by making more of their existing workforce."

● Council for Management Education and Development, c/o Shell UK Ltd, Shell Mex House, The Strand, London WC2R 0DX; Council for National Academic Awards, 344-354 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 8BP; Open University, 1 Cofferidge Close, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, MK11 1BY

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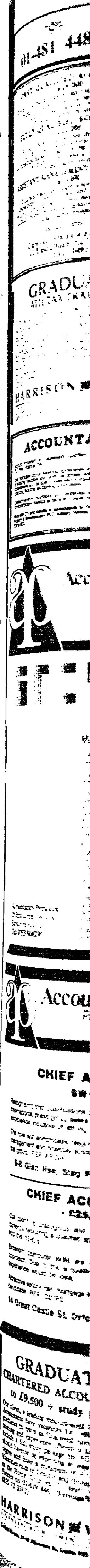
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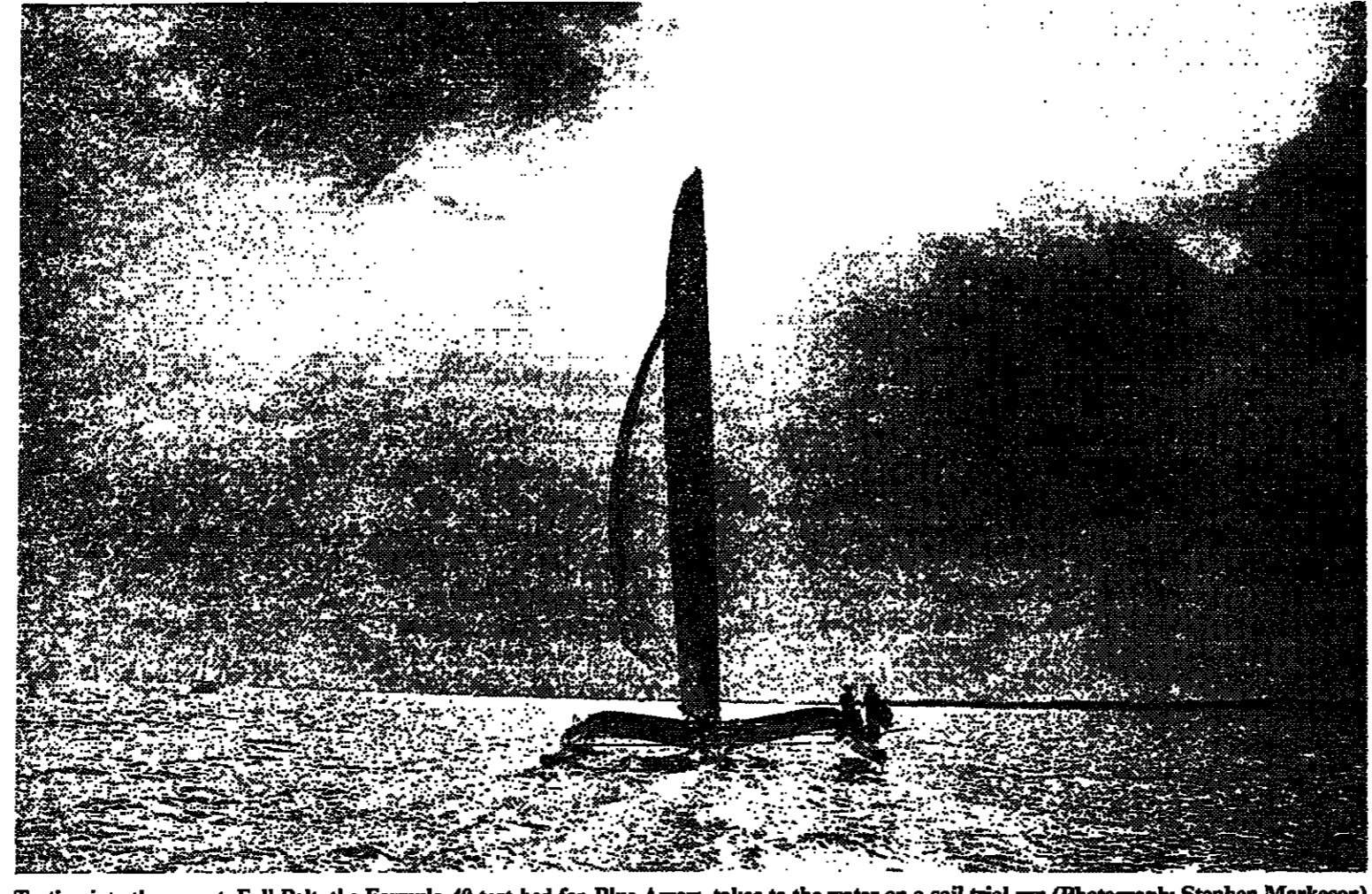
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THE GREAT YACHT RACE

With the financial backing to exercise their dream, Blue Arrow design team have come up with potentially the fastest yacht in history. In the conclusion to a three-part series in *The Times*, Barry Pickthall and Brian James analyse Britain's wonder-boat.



Testing into the sunset: Full Pelt, the Formula 40 test-bed for Blue Arrow, takes to the water on a sail trial run (Photograph: Stephen Markeson)

The Blue Arrow Challenge yacht is a lean, mean, wave-skimming machine that may upset traditionalists but which murmuring computers predict can be the fastest sailing boat the world has seen.

The shape is that of one of Peter de Savary's cigars. The length is 65ft because nothing larger could be fitted into an aircraft to be flown to the United States to throw down Britain's challenge for the America's Cup. The design is as radical in sailing technology as the Harrier jump jet is in aeronautics.

"Crazy?" Derek Clark, the design-coordinator, said. "Maybe. But never before in the history of boat design have a group of people been given the chance to exercise their dream. What we have collectively come up with is as simple — and difficult — as a monopoly."

"No one can guarantee it will work. But, if we can control it, we can beat both the New Zealand monohull and the San Diego catamaran. We are predicting speeds of between 40 and 50 knots. The world speed record for sail is, what, 38.6 knots? We could go for that, too."

Everyone concerned with the project, now in the stage of final

assembly amid total secrecy at the Falmouth Dock headquarters of Blue Arrow Challenge plc, ready for a will-it-sink-or-fly trial at the end of the month, remembers the night, barely a dozen weeks ago on April 18, when the idea lit up the team.

It was at a dinner in Falmouth, where de Savary, managing director of the Blue Arrow Challenge, had gathered his design team to take stock. The meal was as optimistic forward-looking as an inaugural dinner of a kamikazi club; a New York court had rejected pleas that the cup be delayed to allow boats other than New Zealand's 90-ft monohull to take part.

All they had won was a throw-away concession that San Diego would permit a September race-off among challengers: the smirking Californians simply did not believe it possible to design and build a 90-ft footer to match New Zealand in the six months remaining. Nor did de Savary.

But what everyone misjudged — including de Savary — was the degree of lateral thinking that Clark and his high-powered design team could bring to the problem.

For the previous 18 months, Blue Arrow's design co-ordinator, who

trained as an atomic physicist before making a vocation out of the America's Cup, had been brainstorming with traditional philosophy, mixing it with the ideas of some of the best minds in Britain's aerospace industry; they had had 20-ft models tank-tested and were ready to design a 12 metre, or a mammoth monohull, a multihull — or even something entirely radical — to finally win back the trophy.

"If we could design and build a monohull to beat both the big yacht and the American catamaran in three months, then fly it to San Diego, would we be allowed to race?" Clark asked quietly. De Savary's reaction? "He was amused," Clark said.

But as Clark continued to spell out the theory and potential of his wave-skimming contraption, de Savary became electrified. His mind was already racing ahead. As the meeting ended, he telephoned first to San Diego, then New Zealand to bluff and double-bluff his way into the competition.

Three days later, with little sleep in the interim, he announced to an astonished Press corps that Blue Arrow's challenge had gained acceptance from San Diego and New Zealand. It took 24 hours for the camps on both sides of the Pacific to begin to wonder if they had been had. By that time, de Savary had collected the necessary signatures.

ork began at a frantic pace to build a 65ft pencil-thin hull barely wide enough for one man to sit in, supported by hydrofoils set on wide arms to provide the stability to counter the hi-tech winged rig. When a New Zealand scout heard what Blue Arrow was about, he

exploiting a clause in the 100-year-old Deed of Gift governing the America's Cup, which states that these should not be considered a part of the vessel for all purposes of measurement.

As far as the America's Cup is concerned, the British boat is 65ft long, about 3ft wide and described as a foil-stabilized monohull. De Savary and his crew may appear to be flying in the face of convention, but the concept goes back to the 1920s at least, when the first US patent was issued for a hydrofoil boat.

Two decades later, Robert Gilruhr, who eventually headed the US Mercury speed programme, got the first foil-equipped sailing catamaran to fly, pioneering work later developed by the US Navy to the point where one of these craft sailed at speeds in excess of 30 knots.

Until recently, the performance spectrum of sailing hydrofoils was thought to be too narrow for round-the-buoys racing. But that has been disproved by Dr Sam Bradford, professor of engineering at the State University of New York. Twenty-five years of trial by error has led to an 18ft foil with a 28ft beam that consistently beats catamarans of the same size in all but the very lightest of winds.

The San Diegans considered the same option, but, faced only with a monohull challenger at the time, they plumped for ready-made technology and a simple catamaran guaranteed to run rings round the New Zealand monster.

The big question mark hanging over de Savary's skimmer is whether it can be made to fly competitively in such a short space of time. Should the New York court rule that the cup will be raced for this September, Chris Law, Blue Arrow's sailing co-ordinator, has only 20 days to fine-tune the boat and crew skills before coming up against New Zealand in the knockout challenge trials.

"There's no doubt it's a gamble," de Savary said. "But the best brains in the British aerospace industry believe it will fly and they are not known for getting things wrong." De Savary and his partner, Tony Berry, have \$6 million (about £3.5 million) riding on the outcome. If the boffins are right, the boat could prove to be Britain's best hope yet of winning back the trophy. If not, it is back to the computer for the next attempt.

teledoned Fay. "Our boat is a bloody dinosaur!"

The boat is the brainchild of a core design team, co-ordinated by Clark, that includes the top yacht designers, Rob Humphreys, Ed Dubois, Tony Castro and Jo Richards. Others adding strength to the theory and potential of this radical craft include the aeronautical graduate, Peter Heppel, the fluid dynamist, Geoff Willis, Stephen Fiddes, the senior lecturer in aeronautics at Bristol University, and Martyn Smith, the chief stress analyst at British Aerospace, one of the world's leading authorities on composite structures.

Displacing around two-and-a-half tons, 600lb less than the American catamaran, the Blue Arrow foiler will be crewed by a team of six — one of whom must gain the aquatic equivalent of a flying licence in the 10 days of trials before the boat is shipped to San Diego.

He is the man who must learn to fly the boat, using the controls linked to each foil from the tiny cockpit in the central hull. The helmsman sits on the windward extremity of her wide beams that support the foils, with the rest of the crew lined up nearby to help balance the boat and trim the sails.

Thought had been given to developing an 85ft articulating solid wing rig, similar to the one first stepped on Conner's latest Stars and Stripes. However, just as the Americans have found to their cost, the serious constraints placed on changing shape to suit a variety of wind strengths makes the solid wing impractical.

Instead, the rig design team, led by Heppel who also ran Kookaburra's sail inventory for the Australian defenders during the last America's Cup, has chosen to adapt the wing developed by Martyn Smith and Barry Noble for Tony Bullimore's latest trimaran, Spirit of Apitoc, which carries a soft-sailed trailing edge.

But the secret, and the arguments that will undoubtedly develop once the competition sight the Blue Arrow boat later this month, surround the hydrofoils.

Looking more like a trimaran than a monohull, this British design is significantly wider than the 28ft maximum stipulated in New Zealand's notice of challenge. This is allowed, according to de Savary — and he has a confirming letter from the International Yacht Racing Union ready to bat away protests — because the foils are movable keels

THE BLUE ARROW DESIGN TEAM

Design co-ordinator
DEREK CLARK: A graduate in atomic physics, Clark first came to the fore, crewing for Phil Crebbin in the 1976 Olympics. His training as an engineer made him indispensable during the de Savary's Victory '83 campaign. He spent the next three years with Australia's Kookaburra team, raising in the finals as navigator.

Core design team
ROB HUMPHREYS: Individual design successes include the Half Ton Cup yacht Roller Coaster and One Ton Cup champion Jade. Current commissions include the Rothmans maxi entry for the 1988 Whitbread round-the-world race. ED DUBOIS: Designer of de Savary's earlier Admiral's Cup yacht, Victory of Burnham and his first 12 metre, Victory 82. Dubois' later successes include the Fastnet-winning Full Pelt and Stephen Fay's latest Formula 40 multihull of the same name.

TONY CASTRO: A graduate of hydro and aerodynamics, Castro's current expertise lies in the design of ultra-light, ultra-fast yachts including the Howarth and the practical maxi on the team. JO RICHARDS: A self-taught designer who built his own medal-winning Flying Dutchman for the last Olympics. Richards is the practical maxi on the team. Like Clark, he also has a principal role in the crew.

GEOFF WILLIS: An expert in fluid dynamics, Willis, with de Savary's senior design team from one of Britain's leading tank-test institutes.

PETER HEPPEL: A specialist in aeronautics who graduated from Bristol University. Heppel was responsible for Kookaburra's sail design programme during the last America's Cup. Now responsible for developing Blue Arrow's winged rig.

GRAEME WINN: A computer expert, Winn was responsible for the advanced electronic instrumentation used on Victory which he then developed further for Kookaburra. Responsible for Blue Arrow's computer systems.

MIKE SCHIHT: Trained in naval architecture before specialising in composite construction. Leads Blue Arrow's building team.

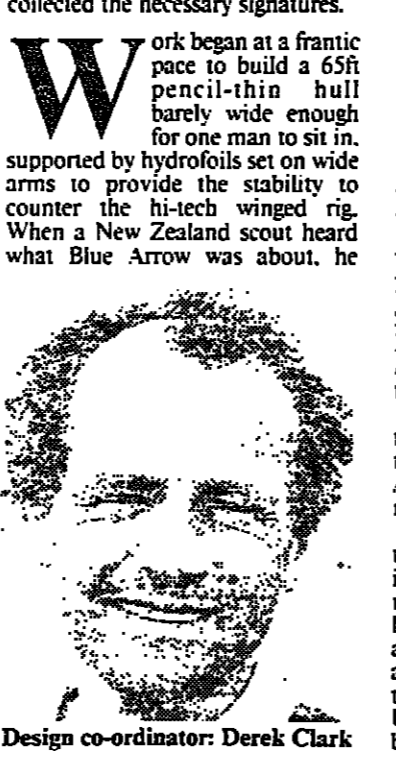
Consultants
STEPHEN FIDDIS: Senior lecturer in Aerodynamics at Bristol University. Designed the wing mast for Britain's recent Little America's Cup challenger.

MARTYN SMITH: Chief stress engineer at British Aerospace. Expert in composite engineering.

BARRY NOBLE: Specialist in composite construction and wing masts. Joint designer with Smith of Spirit of Apitoc.

NIGEL BRENS: Britain's foremost multihull designer who originated the lines of Philippe Poupon's recent transatlantic race winner, Fleury Michon.

ADRIAN THOMPSON: Expert in composite boat construction and design. Responsible for building Blue Arrow's wing mast.



Design co-ordinator: Derek Clark

MOTOR RACING

Dennis confronts the difficulties of his own success

By John Blunsden

Ron Dennis, whose McLaren International team has become the dominant force in grand prix racing, has suddenly found himself in a difficult situation. The problem is not on the track, where Alain Prost and Ayrton Senna have won the last seven races and will probably add an eighth at Silverstone next Sunday, but in the paddock and pit.

"It's a problem of relationships," Dennis says. "If the pressure's off there's nothing I like better than to wander around chatting to the other teams, but it's difficult when you're doing all the winning. If I have a smile on my face I'm told I'm gloating. If I take the smile away I'm said to be arrogant."

The truth is that Dennis, aged 41, is shy but acutely sensitive to relationships. He is also meticulous in his fostering and protection of his team's image, which is why his people keep very much to themselves these days. "I've had to tell them not to go walkabout; I can't take the risk of others thinking: 'They're not in it on the track, now they're doing it in the paddock as well.'"

Dennis's ability to motivate people is one of his great strengths. "He engenders a tremendous team spirit, even though he's a hard task-master," says Richard West, his contracts co-ordinator. "He's a perfectionist who lays down the most exacting standards of personal performance in every detail, but he's insisted in everyone that McLaren isn't his team, it's *their* team. Therefore, his way of doing things should be their way because that's the only way if you're going to be the best."

Dennis entered motor racing as a mechanic with the Cooper Car Company in 1960, then joined a major manufacturer in 1966, where he was appointed in national, rather than sponsor's, colours and teams tended to be run by former drivers. There were no Formula One openings on the commercial side, but one arrived soon after he formed a partnership with Neil Trundle, now McLaren's chief mechanic, to run a Rondel Formula Three team.

"I had a bad car accident which prevented me from doing any physical work for several months, so I concentrated on paperwork. Apart from it being nice not having to get my hands dirty all the time, I found I enjoyed this side of the work very much."

Then John Hogan, a senior executive for Philip Morris, in whose Marlboro colours Dennis's cars have operated ever since, first came into contact with him. "Two things impressed me about Ron. The first was his conviction that nothing was impossible. The second was

his remarkable clarity of vision. Most people tend to think about next weekend, the next race, or perhaps the next season. In Ron's case it was about the next two, five, even 10 years. Everything you see in the McLaren pit today, the whole infrastructure, was clearly laid out in his mind back in the early 1970s."

His route into Formula One took him through Formula Two under the Project Four banner, the success of which encouraged Hogan to recommend a merger with McLaren, who were also sponsored by Marlboro, merging through a thin time. Had the deal not gone through (there was one false start) Dennis would have taken Project Four into Formula One on his own with a car designed by John Barnard. A year later Dennis and his partners bought out the other McLaren shareholders and in 1983 were joined by Mansour Ojjeh, the Emir of Qatar. Advanced Technology Company financed the development of McLaren's first turbo-charged engine by Porsche.

Dennis has been the commercial driving force ever since, and has built an empire of resources, which is the envy of all its rivals. Six sponsors have bought space on the cars, but there are even more commercial associations without exposure.

They have had to finance a magnificent 68,000sq ft facility on the Working Business Park where 150 people are employed and which includes all the usual departments of a racing headquarters, plus conference rooms and a cafe, motor club, video and satellite presentations.

At race circuits the McLaren area is much the same — even the exhibition stand, the floors are swept minutes after every practice session, newly-laid, clean clothing is worn each day and new shoes at each meeting, the framed pictures in the hospitality unit are constantly changed to record the latest success, and even the fresh flowers match the team's colours. This demonstrates Dennis's attention to commitment, strategy and tactics.

"A lot of people don't realise what this business is all about. It's not about winning the next race or the next championship — those are means to an end. All you want to do is win. It is a marketing platform for major commercial organizations. We set out to provide the best platform with the best image and the best environment for companies to maximize the benefits of their investment."

In order to do this McLaren's operating budget is close to \$25 million, plus more than as much again by Honda, their engine partners; the best is never cheap.

BOXING

Warren is issued with Benn writ

Nigel Benn has issued a writ against Frank Warren, the manager from whom he split two weeks ago. The unbeaten Commonwealth middleweight champion, aged 24, is disputing the validity of his management agreement and is now asking for an investigation into payments which he claims were due to him.

Benn has appointed Ambrose Mendy, chairman of the World Sports Corporation, as his agent even though Warren states that the boxer's walk-out — "He will not be allowed to box without my making the arrangements." Warren, who became Benn's manager in January, also said that he would be issuing a writ for breach of a contract that had two and half years to run.

Benn, a former soldier, who has won all his 18 contests inside the distance, was due to box again on Warren's promotion at Luton Town Football Club on June 25 but pulled out at 48 hours' notice.

"I consider that, to date, the rights that I have really needed — namely against such boxers as Michael Watson, Herol Graham and Johnny Melfah — have not been forthcoming," he explained. "I was simply not prepared to continue to fight, because of the very few people I had ever heard."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bettinson denies allegation

From Keith Macklin, Canberra

Les Bettinson, the Great Britain manager, yesterday responded to persistent allegations of British "head-hunting" during the second international at Brisbane last week.

Ken Arthurson, the Australian Rugby League president, has gone so far as to arrange a private video-tape session with Francois Desplats, the French referee, but Bettinson said that the Australian reactions amounted almost to hysteria, and he feared that their behaviour might be unfairly treated.

Bettinson said: "It has been a witch hunt. If anyone would like to take a look at the video tape they will find that an Australian player was responsible for two of the head-high hits."

Kevin Ward, the Great Britain front-row forward, will go into the match on Saturday troubled by an ankle injury. Joe Kilroy, the Brisbane winger who played for Halifax, has been charged with respecting the referee. Despite this, he has been named by the Brisbane Broncos for their game on Sunday.

Oldham have agreed terms for next season with the Australian player, Paul Taylor, captain of the Sydney club, Panaramba.

FISHING

A damp rejoinder for the ideal waterproof

By Conrad Voss Bark

Five years ago, I bought a waterproof, waxed cotton jacket to go fishing in. It was a wonderful jacket, the best in the world, and couldn't possibly leak; you could go out in North Sea blizzards and it would not leak, you could even leave it in the river for weeks or months or years and when you fished it out again and dried it and wore it in the winter, it would not leak, because it was waterproof. They told you so.

Well, three months after buying this lovely new jacket, I went out on Dartmoor prepared to laugh at the rain, and about halfway during the day I had that cold feeling on my shoulders which says you are damp. When I got back home, I dried the thing out and anointed it with oil or wax or whatever the stuff is called, and went out happily in another thunderstorm a couple of weeks later and got wet.

So I wrote to the makers and they were quite nice about it, but they said it was quite possible to rub the proofing off a jacket in a matter of months and that all

oiled cotton clothing should be regularly examined and re-treated when necessary. It was really waterproof, of course it was, until the proof rubbed off.

So I got another jacket, which was made of a new wonder material which has billions of little holes in it, which let in something and let out something else, but was waterproof because it was scientifically tested as being waterproof and no argument. So I tried this out on Dartmoor in a thunderstorm and came back with damp shoulders.

So I thought about this a lot and worked out scientifically that if I were to wear the cotton jacket under the new wonder jacket, the two of them together might keep me dry. They might be too, only I got so hot under the two jackets I had to take one of them off and I got stuck to a stone, and Dartmoor is so full of stones that when the rain came I was unable to find it again.

I do not know what happened to it perhaps it was taken by a marauding sheep. Anyway, the fishermen in this tale — this fisherman have must get used to being wet.

Penalizing the bowling side

From Mr Ray Chiverton

Sir, There has been a lot of talk about the poor over-rates in modern Test cricket. It seems that fixing is not the only solution that the authorities have, but there is an alternative.

Slow over-rates may mean that play is regularly curtailed because of bad light later in the day. This is equally unfair on the paying public. As we know, the paying public are not always uppermost in the minds of the cricketers and therefore an appeal based on this argument will fail.

However, more seriously, if a batting side is denied the bowling, then they cannot score runs. (You may also argue that the bowling side should be penalized on the basis that the batting side could have scored runs during the lost period.) At the scheduled close of play runs are added to the score relative to the number of outstanding overs. This figure could be the average run-rate so far, or a more severe figure, say six runs per over.

Example:

Runs scored	237
Overs bowled	8
Overs remaining	3
Runs per over	29.6
Overs rounded up from 2.88	3
Penalty runs @ 6	18
Total at close	247

Should the penalty be six runs per over, the total score leaps to 285. I am sure that batsmen and captains would ensure that the overs were bowled.

Yours,
RAY CHIVERTON,
57 Andrew Crescent,
Waterlooville,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

A plan to clean up football

From Mr Alan Mason

Sir, How can we expect the impressionable masses on the terraces to behave in a reasonable manner when their heroes on the field of play openly display acts of gross indiscipline? They shout abuse at the referee, incessantly arguing with him and among themselves; furthermore, they cheat, spit and are often guilty of malicious fouls against their opponents.

On scoring a goal, these same players then embark on their inclined first to kiss and cuddle the goalscorer; this from so-called professionals.

Yet most club managers not only condone this appalling behaviour, but actively participate, remonstrating with officials and denigrating their opponents. Big business it may be, but it is not time that football re-examined its sporting ethics, discouraging cheating, punishing malice and seeking measures to overcome the "win-at-all-costs" syndrome? My proposals to this end are:

1. The captain of each side should be the only player permitted to question a referee's decision, after which it must be accepted.
2. Abuse following the award of a free kick should result in an advance of 10 yards towards the goal.
3. A "sin bin" should replace "cards", with fouls rated from 10 to 90 minutes. Toting up time fouls would highlight dirty players for tougher punishment.
4. Club discipline should

A drop in the ocean

From the chairman of Angling Trade Association

Sir, Your fishing reporter, Conrad Voss Bark, stated in his column (June 30) that the tackle trade has been silent on the subject of carbon-fibre rods conducting electricity.

For the past three years the Angling Trade Association and the Electricity Council have distributed over 100,000 leaflets at angling shows to the trade and public, together with a substantial number of press releases. The popular angling media, which sell together nearly 200,000 copies a week, have run several leader articles on the dangers. All member companies of our trade association have received from the Electricity Council labels to mark their rods and most now do so at point of manufacture.

Our wholesaler members have circulated all retailers with posters and leaflets in 1987 and this year — and our trade press has carried detailed articles on the subjects. Various regional electricity boards have attended public angling shows as well.

Statistically, electrocution via fishing is extremely rare — fewer than 10 incidents reported but 4,000,000 anglers. Children flying kites, pleasure flights and tipper lorries all show a greater danger than fishing.

Yours faithfully,
C. J. AYLETT,
Chairman, Angling Trade Association,
Prudential House,
Wellesley Road,
Croydon, Surrey.

When the fiddling has to stop

From Mr C. von Westenholz

Sir, Matches at Wimbledon, particularly during the advanced stages of the men's tournament, now seem to take longer despite the introduction of the tie-break. Unnecessary draw-out games severely detract from the enjoyment of watching, however talented the participants.

During one of the singles semi-finals, I did some impromptu and admittedly rather unscientific timing. On average it took approximately 25 seconds for the server to serve again after the previous point had been decided and 35 seconds if the first service was a fault. In contrast actual play per point averaged less than five seconds. Add to this the time taken to change ends and it is apparent that only a small fraction of time on the court is actually taken up by play.

Could not players be encouraged to move into position between points more quickly and spend little time gazing into the middle distance, fiddling with strings on their racket, etc? It is understandable that there could be a lengthy gap after fiercely contested points, but these tend to be the exceptions.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES VON WESTENHOLZ,
55 Palace Gardens Terrace, W8.

From Ms Svenja Geissmar

Sir, In his article, "Equality that led to game of faults" (June 30), Mr Miller quite correctly predicts that women will find his observations concerning women's tennis "outrageous". Might I add that it is when men start showing equal outrage at such observations that feminists may have a sigh of relief, and

furthermore, following the semi-final match between Ms Evert and Ms Navratilova, might one ask Mr Miller to eat his sexist words?

Yours sincerely,
SVENJA GEISSMAR,
39 Middleway, NW11.

From Mr Arthur Abeles

Sir, Now that men's tennis has become so physical, it would be interesting to have, as with boxing, more details about the contestants, such as age, height, weight, reach; and about the weapon: how heavy is it? what's the size of the grip?

Is McEnroe heavier than Connors? Just how tall is Edberg? Television doesn't tell me, neither does anyone else, and these things have become as important to the enjoyment of the sport as knowing that Tyson has a 19½-inch neck.

Sincerely,
ARTHUR ABELES,
3 Durian Place, SW3.

From Mr H Stern

Sir, Assuming that all matches in the Wimbledon championships go to their potential maximum of five sets for the gentlemen and three for the women, that gives a total of 35 sets for the men's finalists and 21 for the women's with this year's first prizes of £165,000 and £148,500 for the men's and women's singles champions, respectively, that is a rate of £4,714.29 per set for the man and £7,071.42 for the woman. Based on an average of 45 minutes per set, that makes hourly rates of almost £6,300 and £9,500 respectively. Equal pay for equal work?

Yours faithfully,
HENRY STERN,
12 Tenterden Gardens, NW4.

SPORTS LETTERS

Indian Scalps

COURTS

SAND

COURSE

Indian Ridge to claim notable scalps in fascinating July Cup

Significant progress on herpes research

Doyoun to represent classic generation in King George

With Big Shuffle, Governor General, Soviet Star, Indian Ridge, and Warning all standing their ground overnight, visitors to Newmarket today will be treated to a marvellous sprint for the Norcross July Cup.

A breakthrough in the control of equine herpes virus (EHV1), which paralyzes mares and causes contagious abortion, is expected within five years (Michael Seely writes).

Doyoun, the 2,000 Guineas winner and Derby third, will attempt to repeat the 1981 victory of Shergar for the Aga Khan.



Paul Eddery: won Child Stakes on Inchmurrin was repeating the 1986 win of Mansoor for Neville Callaghan in the race.

NEWMARKET Selections. By Mandarin. 2.00 Samoan. 2.35 Urizen. 3.10 INDIAN RIDGE (nap).

THE TIMES RACING SERVICE. Continuous live commentary with comment and analysis. Plus classified results each day.

Back protectors compulsory. The Jockey Club is to make back protectors compulsory for all National Hunt jockeys from July 30.

Guide to our in-line racecard. 103 (12) 6-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,B,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0.

3.40 ADDISON TOOLS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £16,554: 1m) (16 runners). 401 (3) 1115-11 JAMARI 40 (D,F,G,S) (M Arraghe) M H Easbery 9-7.

3.55 RAMBLING ROSE HANDICAP (£1,389: 7f) (13). 1 4000 CROFTER'S CLINE 7 (F,G,S) W Hinton 4-10-0.

2.0 BERNARD VAN CUTSEM STAKES (Listed race: 2-Y-O: £8,069: 7f) (3 runners). 101 (2) 31 JACAMAR 21 (F) (Zawaw) B Harbury 9-2.

FORM JAMARI (9-7) a short-head winner from Quirin Tary (1m mdn) at Haydock (1m h.csp. £17,500, good to firm, May 28, 15 ran).

2.15 Tell Me This. 2.50 Lock Form. 3.25 Casey. 3.55 Norton Melody. 4.25 Briggsacre. 4.55 Chocstay.

2.35 H & K COMMISSIONS HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £8,076: 1m 6f 171yd) (10 runners). 202 (3) 4-2330 COUNT MY BLESSINGS 22 (M) (M Gatsby) C Wall 9-7.

FORM JAMARI (9-7) a short-head winner from Quirin Tary (1m mdn) at Haydock (1m h.csp. £17,500, good to firm, May 28, 15 ran).

2.15 TELL ME THIS (2-Y-O: £1,800: 12f) (12 runners). 1 0002 DINDALEE 6 (M) (G Moore) 6-11.

FORM JACAMAR (9-12) best effort (9-12) 1st at Royal Ascot (5f, £22,272, 22.272).

FORM JAMARI (9-7) a short-head winner from Quirin Tary (1m mdn) at Haydock (1m h.csp. £17,500, good to firm, May 28, 15 ran).

2.50 SPREADING CHESTNUT HANDICAP (£1,643: 5f) (8). 1 0010 LOCK FORM 37 (CD,B,F,G) C Twinkl 5-10-0.

3.10 NORCROSS JULY CUP (Group 1: £55,950: 6f) (10 runners). 301 (2) 41300-1 BIG SHUFFLE 54 (D,F,G,S) (Moylshay Stud Ltd) D Wald (tr) 4-9-5-10.

FORM THADDAH (9-4) 4th to yesterday's winner Inchmurrin (8-11) at Kempton (1m h.csp. £7,750, good to firm, May 21, 8 ran).

3.25 WEERING WILLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £255: 1m 4f 40yd) (9). 1 0002 ALGHAIN 17 (M) (H Thompson) Jones 8-11.

COURSE SPECIALISTS. TRAINERS: H Cecil 196, L Curran 11, O Doube 11, J Stoute 11, G Harwood 21.

FORM THADDAH (9-4) 4th to yesterday's winner Inchmurrin (8-11) at Kempton (1m h.csp. £7,750, good to firm, May 21, 8 ran).

3.25 WEERING WILLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £255: 1m 4f 40yd) (9). 1 0002 ALGHAIN 17 (M) (H Thompson) Jones 8-11.

SANDOWN PARK Selections. By Mandarin. 6.35 Cer-Een-Cee. 7.05 High Bailiff. 7.35 Ustran.

FORM THADDAH (9-4) 4th to yesterday's winner Inchmurrin (8-11) at Kempton (1m h.csp. £7,750, good to firm, May 21, 8 ran).

3.25 WEERING WILLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £255: 1m 4f 40yd) (9). 1 0002 ALGHAIN 17 (M) (H Thompson) Jones 8-11.

COURSE SPECIALISTS. JOCKEYS: Roper 28, S Caughan 28, W R Swinburn 28, J Stoute 28, G Harwood 28.

FORM THADDAH (9-4) 4th to yesterday's winner Inchmurrin (8-11) at Kempton (1m h.csp. £7,750, good to firm, May 21, 8 ran).

3.25 WEERING WILLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £255: 1m 4f 40yd) (9). 1 0002 ALGHAIN 17 (M) (H Thompson) Jones 8-11.

7.5 PETTICOAT LANE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£2,657: 5f) (11 runners). 1 (7) 30-3402 AFRICAN SPIRIT 8 (D,F,S) (B Haggas) M Prescott 4-9-10.

FORM THADDAH (9-4) 4th to yesterday's winner Inchmurrin (8-11) at Kempton (1m h.csp. £7,750, good to firm, May 21, 8 ran).

3.25 WEERING WILLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £255: 1m 4f 40yd) (9). 1 0002 ALGHAIN 17 (M) (H Thompson) Jones 8-11.

7.5 BROOKLANDS HANDICAP (£3,465: 1m 1f) (11 runners). 1 (6) 0120-30 BAY WINDSOR 5 (M) (J Sangster) M South 3-9-0 (40x).

FORM THADDAH (9-4) 4th to yesterday's winner Inchmurrin (8-11) at Kempton (1m h.csp. £7,750, good to firm, May 21, 8 ran).

3.25 WEERING WILLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £255: 1m 4f 40yd) (9). 1 0002 ALGHAIN 17 (M) (H Thompson) Jones 8-11.

COURSE SPECIALISTS. JOCKEYS: Roper 28, S Caughan 28, W R Swinburn 28, J Stoute 28, G Harwood 28.

FORM THADDAH (9-4) 4th to yesterday's winner Inchmurrin (8-11) at Kempton (1m h.csp. £7,750, good to firm, May 21, 8 ran).

3.25 WEERING WILLOW MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-Y-O: £255: 1m 4f 40yd) (9). 1 0002 ALGHAIN 17 (M) (H Thompson) Jones 8-11.

FASTEST RESULTS AND TODAY'S DIRECT CONTACT NUMBERS. 0898 168 168. 0898 168 123. RACEPHONE.

GOLF

Couples defies the elements to take a leading position

By Mitchell Platts Golf Correspondent

Fred Couples, of the United States, scored a 64 to share the first-round lead with the Spaniard José Rivera...

Table with columns: Hole, Yds, Par, Hole, Yds, Par. Rows 1-18 showing scores for various players.

Card of course... Total yardage: 6,745

Couples launched a spirited challenge for this title 12 months ago. He finished eighth then, emphasizing his liking for the course...

Rough treatment changes course

From Patricia Davies, Paris

They have cut the rough at St Germain, near Paris, where the Hennessy Ladies Cup starts today...

Swedes lead by four strokes

Sweden, seeking a second victory in the event, led the field by four shots on 374 after yesterday's opening strokeplay...

STUDENT SPORT

Scottish sweep all before them

By Yuri Matischen

Scottish universities swept the board at the British universities golf championship at Saunton...

YACHTING

Royal Thames qualify as protest pays off

By Barry Pickthall

A crew from the Parkstone Yacht Club sailed into the finals of the Virella Cup inter-club match race championship at Cowes...

Statue beckons sailors

From Malcolm McKee, New York

New York - The Statue of Liberty will today welcome eight leading match-racers for the start of the Liberty Cup...

CYCLING



On the line: Da Silva (right) just gets the better of Rooks at the finish of the fourth stage

Kelly stealthily working his way through tour field

From John Wilcockson, Evreux

Day by day, Sean Kelly is approaching his best form as the Tour de France approaches its first major hurdle...

Rushton says he is not on his bike

By Peter Bryan

Alan Rushton, the entrepreneur who is negotiating the 1990 Tour de France to start in Britain, said yesterday that he had not resigned as chairman...

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns: ATHLETICS, GOLF, TENNIS, BOWLS, BASEBALL, BADMINTON, BASKETBALL, HOCKEY, RUGBY UNION, SPEEDWAY, SQUASH RACKETS, CYCLING. Lists of sports events and results.

EQUESTRIANISM

Smith junior puts on winning show with plucky Vista

By Jenny MacArthur

Steven Smith, riding the 14-year-old Brook Street Vista, who he describes as "an out and out relegatee his father, Harvey..."

Despite the concessions made by the course designer, several riders decided it was not worth risking their horses. These included Liz Edgar and Robert Smith...

ROWING

Holmes is laid low again by rib injury

By Jim Raitton

Britain's world champions in coxless pairs, Steve Redgrave and Andy Holmes, have withdrawn from this weekend's important regatta on the Lucerne...

BOWLS

Wales put England to the test Scotland retain their title

By Gordon Allan

Scotland retained the Eve Trophy in the women's international series at Spennymoor yesterday...

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures for the day, including Cricket, Basketball, Hockey, Rugby Union, Squash Rackets, and Bowls.

Injured Norman is out of Open

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

Greg Norman has been forced to withdraw from the 17th Open Championship, which starts at Royal Lytham and St Annes next Thursday. The wrist injury he sustained while playing a shot from a rocky lie during the United States Open last month has failed to respond to treatment.

"I've been told I could jeopardize my entire career if I further damaged it," he said yesterday. "I will sorely miss not being at the Open but it would be foolish to take any risk. At the moment I can only hit three-quarter shots. I will now rest for three weeks. My aim is to be fit to play in good time for the US PGA Championship in Oklahoma next month."

The Australian's withdrawal is a disappointment. He won the Open at Turrberry in 1986 and has been in good form this season, winning the Palm Meadows Cup, the ESP Open, and the Australian FPC on his native circuit; the MCI Heritage Classic on the US Tour; and the Italian Open on his only visit to Europe.

Statistically Norman, who is leading the Sony world rankings, has been playing better than ever. Thirty-one of his 56 rounds have been below 70, giving him an average score of 69.20. Before his withdrawal, he was joint favourite for the Open title with Sandy Lyle, Severiano Ballesteros, and Nick Faldo. The only other recent winner who will be absent is Bill Rogers, the champion in 1981. He has withdrawn because his mother is to undergo major surgery.

The Royal and Ancient, meanwhile has announced that it will not implement the controversial starting arrangements proposed for the second round, whereby the leaders would have been paired together in mid-afternoon.

Sanderson out of big meeting after cash row

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The frustration of four years feeling that she was being treated as a second-class athlete in her home country, despite being the Olympic javelin champion, came to a head yesterday when it was announced that Tessa Sanderson would not be competing in tomorrow evening's Peugeot Games at Crystal Palace.

Sanderson, enjoying her best season since winning the Commonwealth Games title in 1986, said she was surprised to find yesterday that Petra Felke, the world record holder, was competing. And the Briton thought that such a match deserved more than the £4,000 fee she had been offered.

That was already double Sanderson's fee for matches under the official British board subvention scheme. But, mindful of the present indisposition to her great British rival and world champion, Fatima Whitbread, Sanderson asked for £7,000.

There is a slight divergence of opinion at this point. Adam Faith, the former pop singer, who is Sanderson's agent, said that the administration withdrew the thrower's invitation, while the administration claims that Andy Norman, the British athletics promotions officer, was prepared to compromise with £5,000 when Sanderson issued a statement saying that she was withdrawing from the meeting.

Sanderson said: "I've beaten Fatima Whitbread twice this season, I'm ranked fourth in the world, and I'm still the lowest paid in my category. I wanted to compete, and I was prepared to risk injury to do so. I have been seeking a Harley Street doctor for two weeks because of tendon problems. "Once I found out I was up against Felke, it was not unreasonable to ask for more."

This is another example of the way I have been treated since winning the Olympic title."

Faldo, whose greatest claim to fame remains, incidentally the deathless song *What Do You Want If You Don't Want Money?*, said: "Tessa earns £2,000 a meeting, while I believe Whitbread gets in excess of £7,000. How can Whitbread be worth three-and-a-half times what Tessa is worth?"

It might be worth bringing in another old stager, Steve Ovett, at this point. When a similar row over the disparity of fees between Whitbread and Sanderson was broached last year, when Sanderson, as Commonwealth champion, was due £1,000 per match to the £10,000 of the European champion and then world record holder, Whitbread, Ovett remarked: "Really, it's like paying the girl who holds up the round cards at boxing as much as the fighters."

Notwithstanding the self-interest of a track pugilist like Ovett, who was involved in his own argument over subventions, his barb makes even more ironic the administration statement from the Board spokesman, Tony Ward, yesterday that Sanderson "won't come to terms with the financial realities of 1988."

For it has been suggested that the whole subvention scheme was framed around Whitbread, with the result that she was getting in excess of anyone in British athletics except Steve Cram and Sebastian Coe, whose events are more popular and attractive. And that, ultimately, is what both Sanderson and Ovett have been railing against.

Faldo went on to say: "Let's get it straight, Tessa has let nobody down. She felt, as Olympic champion, that she was entitled to a decent rate, especially with the fact that competing against Felke would be such an attraction." Faith said he did not know if Sanderson would now boycott all domestic meetings.

Other withdrawals yesterday were John Ridgeon, who is still suffering from a virus, and Tony Jarrett, whose coach feels that he has had enough races for the time being. That should leave Colin Jackson unchallenged in the high hurdles. And Danny Harris has withdrawn from the intermediate hurdles, due to the proximity of the United States Olympic trials.

Steve Ovett will see a specialist at the end of the week after trailing home eighth in the mile at the Cork City athletics meeting on Tuesday. Ovett, bidding to compete his fourth Olympics, finished more than three seconds behind the winner, the American, Steve Scott, who clocked 3min 55.95sec.

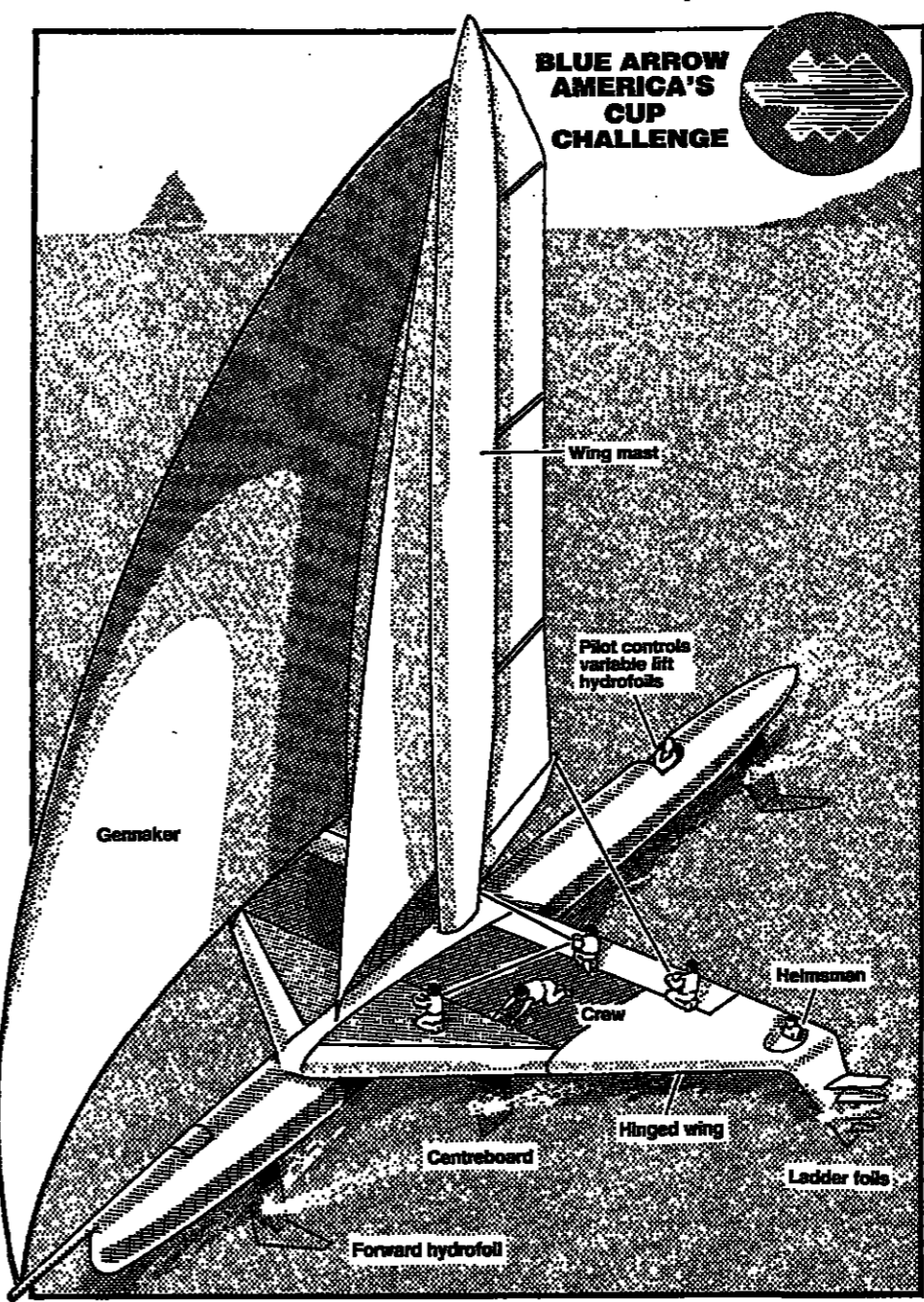
A disappointed Ovett said: "I felt terrible. I am going to see a specialist on Friday. It's a mystery to me - I feel I must be deficient in something or other. My training is going all right but I am not racing well."

Ward, yesterday that Sanderson "won't come to terms with the financial realities of 1988."

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Lift off for British yacht



BLUE ARROW AMERICA'S CUP CHALLENGE

This is the first impression, exclusively in *The Times*, of the yacht that will startle the world of yachting when it is launched at Falmouth later this month.

Blue Arrow, Peter de Savary's radical America's Cup challenger, is a 65ft radical craft costing £3.5 million. Conceived two months ago, her design is the creation of the best aeronautical and marine brains in Britain: the drawing shows how it is likely to look. If the theorists are right, the six-man craft

will be the first to break through the 40-knot yachting barrier and will be too good for its New Zealand and American rivals for the Cup.

The unique features of Blue Arrow are the hydrofoils which lift the craft out of the water, reducing drag. To prepare themselves for their adventure, Chris Law and his crew have been training on high-speed land yachts.

The Great Yacht Race, page 40

Time to speak with one voice

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

Peter May is a master of concealing emotions. His inscrutable features reveal even less than his cautiously phlegmatic comments. Personal feelings are hidden by an aloof austerity in keeping with his well-scrubbed City image.

In his private moments this week, however, the chairman of England's cricket selectors must surely have undergone agonising self-doubt. He is presiding over an untenable sequence of failures and appears to have neither the resource to improve things nor the courage to resign. We are left with the unpleasant impression of a man trying to muddle through and who have reached a point where that will not do.

May has been too long in charge of a team so accustomed to Test defeat that they expect nothing better. At Old Trafford this week the most accomplished players in the country were a look of unhappy resignation. This reflects badly on leadership - not from the captain, who has been made to feel that each match is his last, but from the man who must ultimately carry the can because he alone can hire and fire.

The confused and contradictory thinking of May and the two other part-time selectors, Fred Titmus and Phil Sharpe, can do nothing for the team's confidence. Players are told that selections will be made on form but they then see men chosen who are patently in no sort of form.

Back in April, May announced it was bowlers that were needed; last week, he considered starting a Test with a waffer-thin attack because it was batsmen that were needed. A fair conclusion might be that England can neither bat nor bowl but I prefer to believe that they are chiefly lacking direction and purpose.

There is a story about the chairman of selectors which can be assumed as apocryphal. Facing a probing interview, he was told that most people in the country considered him to be out of touch. "I hadn't heard that one," is the alleged reply.

It is a tale which reveals much about the common conception of May. Satirical



May: a time of self-doubt cartoonists now delight in him, the man in the street tells jokes about him. Most damning of all, the players themselves feel they hardly know him.

At a time when the right type of authority and advice is badly needed, we have a chairman who finds it hard to communicate with his players and a manager who is arguably too close to them.

My view is straightforward. Committee selection is an archaic institution which has no place in the modern game. By abolishing the system and investing the manager with freedom and authority, one would create a compact unit in which a single professional man is accountable.

I have heard the argument that selectors should not be criticised because they are unpaid. This is both untrue and illogical - untrue, because each selector receives a daily fee and liberal expenses when on duty, and illogical because remuneration has nothing to do with responsibility.

It is a fact, however, that few people have the time or the inclination to consider the position, which seems to me another good reason for making it redundant.

Under the present regime, Micky Stewart cannot be fairly judged as a manager. If his words often appear to be so much flannel and his hold on discipline dangerously slight, it may well be because he is still answerable to May. If he acts like one of the players it could be because he has no power to feel above them.

Until that changes, until the part-timers move aside and the team is run by a manager and a captain, I fear the players will continue to resemble rudderless ships in a stormy sea. I doubt if the selectors will even contemplate standing down. Their view is that the appointment is annual and that they should stay until voted out.

Cheshire make nuclear strike and live again

By Alan Lee

CHESTER (Cheshire won toss): Cheshire, with seven wickets standing, need 113 from 25.1 overs to beat Derbyshire

The romance of the cup survives another day. On the trim, suburban ground where they thrillingly eliminated Northamptonshire last month, Cheshire are still entitled to dream of another giant-killing and a possible place in the last eight of the NatWest Trophy.

Derbyshire, three days away from appearing in another Lord's cup final, threatened to swamp the one remaining minor county with a carefully structured innings after being put in to bat. Then a hat-trick by the slow bowler, John O'Brien, provoked a remarkable collapse and Cheshire, set to score 191, were far from hopeless at 78 for three when a damp, murky evening forced an adjournment.

O'Brien's hat-trick was notable for a variety of reasons. It was the first of his life, the first by a Minor Counties player in the 26 years of the knock-out competitions and only the second on a club ground - the other, in 1964, was achieved just up the road from here at Hoyalake.

For all that, however, O'Brien had no idea what he had done until informed by an excited public address announcer because the hat-trick was split. He removed Morris, through an instinctive return

catch, with the last ball of one over, then dismissed Goldsmith, smartly caught behind, and Malcolm, held in the deep, with the first two balls of the next. "We were concentrating so hard, I just didn't realize," he explained.

A 27-year-old left-arm spinner who works in a nuclear plant, O'Brien has attracted interest from two first-class counties and next month will play a second-team game for Warwickshire. In the meantime he has another pressing engagement this weekend, bowling against West Indies for the Minor Counties. "I hear they play a few shots," he said wryly.

The hat-trick created havoc in the Derbyshire ranks. Having recovered from the loss of Barnett in the second over, through a diligent century stand between Roberts and the impressively correct Bowler, Derbyshire were prepared for a final onslaught at 171 for three in the 52nd over. From there, however, they lost their last seven wickets for 19 runs, a collapse to rival England at their gruesome worst.

Morris's dismissal was the crucial factor. He had just hit O'Brien for six and four and looked in ominous command on a green, damp pitch where everyone else had found stroke-play elusive. At his best he is one of the finest strikers of a ball in England and his name ought not to be forgotten

among this winter's tour candidates. In steady rain the last four wickets fell to the nagging seamers of Fox at a cost of only five runs. From the prospect of facing an implausible chase, Cheshire were suddenly presented with a real, if slim chance of making history as the first "minnows" to reach the quarter-finals.

All of their top three are former Lancashire players but none could play the innings required. Wood, the most illustrious, was beaten by Holding's inswinger before Cockbain and Varey, who never quite made the county grade, were undone by the two-paced nature of the pitch.

DERBYSHIRE
N J Barnett to Muddasser 1
P J Bower c Smith b J O'Brien 4
B Roberts c J F M O'Brien b Blackwood 57
J E Morris c and b J F M O'Brien 41
S G Goldsmith c Smith b J O'Brien 6
M A Holding c Blackwood b Fox 24
D E Muggleton c Cockbain b J F M O'Brien 0
G J Newman not out 0
P J Newman b Fox 0
J J Sharma c Cockbain b Fox 0
W J Wood not out 0
Extras (b 8, lb 8, w 8, nb 1) 25
Total (584 overs) 150
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12 2-110 3-136 4-171 5-174 6-174 7-178 8-186 9-187
BOWLING: Fox 10.4-1-24.4 Muddasser 7.9-1.1 W J O'Brien 12.2-26-0 Wood 12.2-38-0 Blackwood 7-0-35-1 J F M O'Brien 10-1-4-0

CHEESHIRE
B Wood lbw b Holding 6
W Varey c and b Muggleton 17
G Goldsmith c Mather b Newman 28
Muddasser Nazar not out 26
W J O'Brien not out 19
Extras (b 5, lb 2, w 2, nb 1) 15
Total (2 wks, 34.5 overs) 78
J J Hinchmough, S J Crawley, W J Wood, M J Pitcher, J A Fox and J J O'Brien to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15 2-25 3-39
Umpires: M J Kitchin and D R Shepherd.

Knock-out cup gets a new deal

By David Hands,
Rugby Correspondent

Given that their business interests include defence contracts and insulation, the Pilkington Group, the new sponsors for the Rugby Football Union's knock-out competition, should be capable of coming up with a player-proof trophy during the 1988-9 season.

The company, based in St Helens, but with interests worldwide, were announced at Twickenham yesterday as the successors to Imperial Tobacco who have supported what was the John Player Special Cup for the last 13 years. During that time they have injected some £1.1 million into the game and helped add a new dimension to the English competitive season.

"Parting company with a sponsor as generous and supportive as Imperial Tobacco is bound to be a matter of profound regret but, due to a change of marketing policy, Imperial Tobacco, under their new owner, Hanson Trust, feel they can no longer continue their sponsorship," John Burgess, the RFU president, said.

Next season's knock-out competition will be for the Pilkington Cup and the agreement will be worth £3 million over three years.

The first contenders for the new trophy will be defined tomorrow when the draw for the first-round, in September, of the Pilkington Cup is made.

FA refuse to let England's match in Italy go ahead

By Louise Taylor

The Football Association effectively placed the England team in international quarantine yesterday by cancelling the friendly in Italy, scheduled for November 16.

Prompted by the menacing shadow of hooliganism, news of this self-imposed isolation was announced as football's leading figures congregated at Downing Street in order to discuss the problem with the Prime Minister.

Ted Croker, the FA secretary, said that the FA had "reluctantly" decided to withdraw from the friendly after "very careful consideration". "The FA has always pursued a policy of treating each away friendly on its merits. In the present circumstances it is not considered advisable to go through with this fixture. Future friendlies will be considered in the light of circumstances prevailing at the time," he added.

Undoubtedly timed to appease the government, who are believed to favour the national team's withdrawal from the World Cup Finals to be held in Italy in 1990, the decision denies England a potentially vital opportunity to face the team who are widely regarded as favourites to win the competition.

Peter Shilton, the England goalkeeper, last night reflected the players' frustration. "Obviously it goes without saying that this has got to be very disappointing. No player likes to miss any international match, especially not one against Italy which would have been a very good game for us," he said.

The cancellation can only hamper England's plans to qualify for the next World

Cup but ironically their forthcoming Group Two qualifying fixtures are unlikely to be tainted by hooliganism. Two other members of the group, Albania and Poland, are unlikely to allow any England supporters to enter their countries, which means that the only potentially explosive World Cup qualifying fixture on foreign soil is against Sweden in September 1989.

More immediately England entertain Sweden at Wembley on October 19 this year before travelling to Albania in March. They play the Albanians at home a month later, Poland at Wembley in June, and visit Sweden in September and Poland in October 1989. In the interim, friendlies are scheduled against Denmark at Wembley on September 14 and away in Greece in February.

Football on collision course

By Peter Ball

Whether the Football League will survive through its centenary year intact is not a subject on the agenda at today's management committee meeting in Plymouth. That question, however, will underpin proceedings as the committee considers the alternative television deals offered by BBC and British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) jointly, or by ITV.

A collision between the League and the 10 leading

clubs now looks inevitable following yesterday's meeting between ITV and representatives of the major clubs. A further meeting has been arranged, signifying that the top 10, led by Arsenal and Manchester United, intend to press ahead unilaterally in spite of the BBC/BSB offer of £39 million, which was announced on Tuesday.

Only football could have turned a position of such unparalleled strength into a potential disaster and it is impossible not to sympathise with the Football League commercial director, Trevor Phillips, whose skilful negotiating played a considerable part in achieving such a classic opportunity for the game.

There is no doubt about the outcome of today's discussions. The committee will approve the the BSB/BBC offer. They will also recommend a rejection of the ITV bid which gives nothing to the majority of clubs. There is also no doubt that the clubs will follow suit at their subsequent league extraordinary general meeting.

It is also highly likely that

an acrimonious meeting will hear the demands for the resignation of David Dein, of Arsenal, seen by many on the league management committee side as the leading protagonist among the big 10. The delicate positions of the league chairman, Philip Carter, and the newly-elected Gordon McKeag (Newcastle United), who also had a foot under both negotiating tables, may also be questioned.

After those certainties, what happens next, however, is a matter for fascinating conjecture. The big 10 were infuriated by the vote last month at the League annual meeting to abolish compensation for clubs whose games were televised live. Phillips himself admits to some sympathy for their demands and it is conceivable that there is enough money to satisfy their desire.

It may, however, be too late for that. Some voices on both sides are showing little taste for compromise, while some of the major clubs are insisting that they now owe a moral obligation to ITV.

That, of course, is bated.

THE COMPETING DEALS

1. Joint British Satellite Broadcasting and BBC four-year deal worth a minimum of £39 million. Shared by 92 Football League clubs and the Football Association. BSB and the Football League to set up a joint production and marketing company to diversify football's interests.

2. ITV offer of about £36 million over four years to 10 top clubs for exclusive rights to the Football League and

Littlewoods Cup matches on their grounds. The 10 clubs are Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, Newcastle United, Nottingham Forest, Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday, and West Ham, with others reportedly waiting eagerly for the invitation should any get cold feet. The offer means nothing for any other club.

Greeks douse Olympic ambitions of Britain

From a Correspondent, Rotterdam

The huge effort Britain's basketball players poured into their performances against Italy and Yugoslavia at the beginning of the week, caught up with them yesterday when they were effectively eliminated from the Olympic qualifying tournament. Greece's victory by 101-72 makes it impossible for Britain to qualify even if they win their last three games.

It is a measure of the depth of talent in this final pool of eight nations that Greece, the European champions, may not be among the first three who will go to Seoul. Britain, on the other hand, looked every inch like men playing their seventh game in nine days.

Today's rest day is desperately needed particularly as Britain have played their last two games without Fogarty and Irish. Further injuries have restricted the court time of Tatham, Way and Miller.

Britain's exhaustion was manifested in the loss of touch and timing which caused them to miss from 27 shots in the first half. Greece's rebounders engulfed the misses to feed Galis and Yannakis for the breaks which gave them a 42-11 lead after 13 minutes. They led 51-29 at the break.

Joe Whelton, the Britain coach, said: "We are totally flat now. We created openings but couldn't put the ball away and we were as slow as molasses getting back on defence."

Steve Bucknall, Britain's leading scorer and rebounder in the tournament, lost his usual support from the ailing Way, who scored with only two shots out of 14. Mike Spaid and Carl Miller provided most of Britain's other threats.

SCORES: Greece 101 (Galis 31, Yannakis 19), Great Britain 72 (Bucknall 22, Miller 15, Spaid 10). Other results: Italy 53 (Fisic 30), France 82 (Catonneau 14).

Cox out in the fourth

Mark Cox, who made history at the West Hants club 20 years ago when he became the first amateur to beat a professional in the first open tennis tournament, bowed out of the Charminster Insurance Bournemouth hardcourt championships yesterday when he lost 5-7, 4-6 to Didier Godfried, of Belgium, in the fourth round.

Cox, aged 45, was giving away 25 years to his opponent but from 1-4 down in the second set he pulled level, only for Godfried, who acted as ball boy to the Briton 10 years ago in Antwerp, to win the next two games and take the match. Results, page 43

In charge

Imran Khan, the Pakistan captain, will lead Michael Parkinson's World XI at Scarborough festival in a three-day game against an MCC side starting on August 31.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Mark Cox

Witt award

Katarina Witt, the Olympic figure skating double gold medal winner, was presented with the Olympic medal in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday for her exceptional sporting ability. The award was presented to the East German skater by the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Testing time

The Netherlands' full Olympic swimming team will compete in the TSB National swimming championships at Leeds on July 27-31, providing a tough test for British swimmers chasing their own national squad places for the Games in Seoul.

Doubling up

Paul Leatherdale and Margaret Thomas, the British pistol shooting champions, have won unexpected places in the Olympic squad. They were called up after Britain, expected to have only six places in the shooting event in Seoul, were awarded two extra places after two of the smaller countries declined the Olympic invitation.

Malik signs

Salim Malik, the Pakistan Test batsman, has signed as professional for Rishton in the Lancashire League. He replaces the Indian batsman, Mohammad Azharuddin.

Handwritten signature: *الدكتور محمد الوكيل*